

# ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

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## THE ARMY.

### WAR DEPARTMENT.

W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War.

Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Adjutant-General.

#### ABSTRACT OF SPECIAL ORDERS

Issued from the Adjutant-General's Office for the week ending  
February 24, 1873.

Tuesday, February 18.

On the recommendation of the Quartermaster-General, Captain E. B. Carling, assistant quartermaster, will report to the commanding general Department of the Missouri for assignment to duty at Pueblo, Colorado Territory, in forwarding supplies for New Mexico and Arizona.

**Discharged.**—Private Lemuel Rulon, Battery K, Second Artillery.

**Transferred.**—Private James Higgins, Company G, Twelfth Infantry, to the General Service U. S. Army.

A General Court-martial is hereby appointed to meet at Willett's Point, New York harbor, on the 24th day of February, 1873, or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the trial of Second-class Private Samuel Graham, Company A, Battalion of Engineers, and such other prisoners as may be brought before it. The following officers of the Engineer Corps are detailed for the court: Captain W. R. King, First Lieutenant James Merour and Eric Bergland, and Second Lieutenants P. M. Price, jr., and C. F. Palfrey. Assistant Surgeon W. Matthews, judge-advocate.

On the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, Hospital Steward James G. Guthrie, U. S. Army, is relieved from duty in the Department of Arizona, and will report in person to the commanding general Department of California for assignment to duty.

Wednesday, February 19.

Captain D. W. Flagler, Ordnance Department, is authorized to visit Washington, D. C., on official business.

So much of Special Orders No. 327, December 14, 1872, from this office, as accepts the resignation of First Lieutenant William S. Mackay, Third Infantry, to take effect June 1, 1873, is, at his own request and by direction of the President, amended to accept his resignation to take effect February 15, 1873.

**Discharged.**—Private Charles Simmons, Company G, Sixth Cavalry.

[There were no Special Orders issued from the office of the Adjutant-General on Thursday, February 20, and Monday, February 24.]

Friday, February 21.

**Discharged.**—Musician Charles K. Orbison, Company G, Sixth Infantry; Private Terence McGowan, Battery A, Fourth Artillery; Private Arthur A. H. Naylor, alias Edward Jones, Company L, Sixth Cavalry.

A board of examination having found Major Robert M. Morris, Sixth Cavalry, incapacitated for active service, the President directs that his name be placed upon the list of retired officers in conformity with section 17 of the act approved August 3, 1861, with pay as fixed by section 24, act approved July 15, 1870.

On the recommendation of the Surgeon-General, Hospital Steward Fred. W. Orth, U. S. Army, is relieved from duty in the Department of the Platte, and will report in person to the commanding general Department of Texas for assignment to duty.

The leave of absence granted Second Lieutenant Edward L. Bailey, Fourth Infantry, in Special Orders No. 9, January 10, 1873, from headquarters Department of the Gulf, is extended sixty days.

**Discharged.**—Hospital Steward Charles Howcroft, U. S. Army; Superintendent P. R. M. Sattes, of the National Cemetery at Florence, South Carolina.

Captain David S. Gordon, Second Cavalry, will proceed to St. Louis Depot and report to the superintendent Mounted Recruiting Service for duty in conducting cavalry recruits to their regiments. The duty completed, he will join his proper station.

Saturday, February 22.

The superintendent Mounted Recruiting Service will prepare and forward under proper charge two hundred and thirty-seven recruits to Sacramento, California, and thence by boat to Benicia Barracks, California, where they will be reported upon arrival to the commanding general Military Division of the Pacific for assignment as follows: One hundred to the First Cavalry, one hundred and twenty to the Fifth Cavalry, and seventeen to Light Battery B, Fourth Artillery. These recruits will be selected from men willing to serve with a mounted battery.

**Discharged.**—Private Eugene R. Collins, Company C, Third Cavalry.

#### HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY.

W. T. Sherman, General of the Army of the United States.

Colonel W. D. Whipple, Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 8, 1873.

General Orders No. 2.

The Seventh U. S. Cavalry is hereby transferred from the Department of the South to the Department of Dakota.

The detachments of the regiment in Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama, will march to Louisville, Ky., or Memphis, Tenn., to take steamboats and proceed by river transportation to Fort Randall, Dakota Territory.

The detachments in North Carolina and South Carolina will be transported by rail to Memphis, and then embark in like manner for Fort Randall.

The movement will begin by the 1st of March, proximo, and the Quartermaster's Department will supply the necessary transportation.

By command of General Sherman.

WILLIAM D. WHIPPLE,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

#### SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Brigadier-General J. K. Barnes, Surgeon-General.

SURGEON-GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 20, 1873.

#### Circular Orders, No. 1.

Officers of the Medical Department making sales of public property will, as soon as practicable, deposit the net proceeds in a United States depository to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States, on account of "proceeds of Government property," and will forward the first, or original, certificate of deposit to this office, together with an account of the sale, and an invoice of the articles sold. They will also note upon the back of the certificate the general character of the property sold, as "medicines," "bedding," "Hospital Furniture," etc., and the leading circumstances of the sale, as, "condemned," "surplus," "sold to emigrants," etc. From posts where it is inconvenient to reach a Government depository the proceeds of sale may be sent direct to this office by paymaster's check, post-office order or any other safe means of transmittal, in the discretion and at the risk of the remitting officer.

By order of the Surgeon-General:

C. H. CRANE, Assistant Surg.-Gen., U. S. Army.

Circular No. 1, Surgeon-General's Office, Washington, D. C., February 20, 1873, publishes a memorandum of changes which have been made in Circular No. 1, dated Surgeon-General's Office, July 1, 1871, (the Standard Supply Table) since its publication.

The Surgeon-General has received the following letter dated: "Headquarters District of the Lakes and of the troops operating in the Modoc country, camp at Lost River Ford, Oregon, January 29, 1873."

To the Surgeon-General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I take pleasure in enclosing to you an extract from the official report just received of Major John Green, First Cavalry, who commanded the troops engaged in the battle of the Modoc Caves on the 17th instant.

Assistant Surgeon Henry McElderry, U. S. Army, chief medical officer of this command is entitled to every credit, not only for his care of the wounded, but for going in person to their assistance under the enemy's fire.

I had frequent occasion to observe Surgeon McElderry's soldierly conduct under fire, and professional skill during the battle of the Modoc Caves, and especially commend him to you for his services on that occasion.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANK WHEATON,

Brevet Major-General, U. S. Army, Lieutenant-Colonel Twenty-first Infantry, commanding.

#### MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.

Lieutenant-Gen. P. H. Sheridan: Hdqrs Chicago, Ill.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA.

Brigadier-General Alfred H. Terry: Headquarters, St. Paul, Minn.

**Twenty-second Infantry.**—Captain Joseph Bush, relieved from recruiting service, February 12 was ordered to join his proper station at Lower Brulé Agency, D. T.

**Seventh Infantry.**—At a meeting of the non-commissioned officers and privates of Company F, Seventh Infantry, stationed at Fort Shaw, M. T., on Monday the 20th of January, 1873, resolutions were passed expressing sympathy with the friends and relations of the late Jeremiah Wells, sergeant Company F, Seventh Infantry, and their sorrow in the loss of a dear and cherished comrade. Second Lieutenant G. H. Wright, Company A, Fort Ellis, has been promoted first lieutenant, vice Sanbourne, deceased, which carries him to Company G, at Fort Shaw, M. T.

A correspondent writing from Fort Shaw, M. T., under date of January 31, says: "There are seven companies of the Seventh Infantry at this post, which make it at present one of the ranking posts of the Union as regards numbers. On the north side of the parade ground are situated the commissary and quartermaster's building, to the right of which is Company G's quarters, and Company I's on the left. On the west side we have Company K, with the district and regimental headquarters in the centre, and on the right of this the hospital and surgeon's quarters. On the south side are the officers' residences, and in the centre a very pretty cottage, which is occupied by Lieutenant-Colonel Gilbert, commanding District of Montana and regiment. On the east side are the quarters of Company C, and the band, also the guard-house and store house. There has been quite an addition made to the post by the erection of a new commissary building, 100 feet by fifty feet, and ten feet high; built entirely of Montana stone. A new bakery built of the same material has been erected, both during the past summer under the supervision of Captain J. M. J. Sanna;

quartermaster. Duty is not very heavy here at present, we mount twenty-two for guard every day, seven posts, and one man for orderly. We are busily engaged cutting ice at present, which with cooks, police, is the only fatigue duty we have to perform. The boys when off duty employ their time hunting game, of which there is a variety, consisting of buffalo, bear, mountain sheep, deer, and a variety of smaller game. We have a very fine skating pond and on a moonlight night quite a pleasant sight is presented viewing the boys on skates. We have a very fine minstrel troupe, which, under the direction of Sergeant Murphy, furnishes some very fine delineations of negro minstrelsy, and altogether everything has a tendency to make the time pass off as pleasantly as possible. There is at present some talk of our going to the States this spring, which we all hope may prove true, as a great many of the old soldiers of the regiment belonged to the Thirty-sixth before the consolidation, and have been on the Plains for the past seven years.

**Twentieth Infantry.**—Captain H. G. Thomas's Company, C, Twentieth Infantry, was detailed as military escort at the funeral of the late Brevet Captain John G. Telford, U. S. A., aide-de-camp to the Department Commander, which took place from the Park Place Hotel, St. Paul, Minn., February 12, Captain H. G. Thomas's company, C, of the Twentieth Infantry, being detailed as escort. Second Lieutenant J. A. Yeckley, Company D, has been promoted first lieutenant, vice Hawley, deceased, which carries him to Company F, at Fort Wadsworth, D. T.

**Payment of Troops.**—Major William Smith, paymaster U. S. Army, February 19 was directed to make payments to February 28, of the troops stationed at Fort Randall and Lower Brulé Agency, D. T.

**Seventeenth Infantry.**—First Lieutenant W. M. Van Horne, Company G, Grand River Agency, has been promoted Captain, vice Clayton, resigned, which carries him to Company A, at Fort Rice, D. T.; Second Lieutenant J. H. Rice, Company G, Grand River Agency, D. T., first lieutenant same company, vice Van Horne, promoted.

**Second Artillery.**—The following General Orders has been issued by the department commander:

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA,  
SAINT PAUL, MINN., February 14, 1873.

#### General Orders No. 15.

The department commander announces with deep regret the death, in this city on the 10th inst., of Brevet Captain John Gilmer Telford, first lieutenant Second Artillery, aide-de-camp.

Captain Telford was the grandson of the late Brigadier-General Joseph G. Totten, chief of engineers, U. S. Army, and was also related to several distinguished officers of the Navy. He entered the service in the early days of the war of the Rebellion, being at the time a mere youth of seventeen years, enlisting as a private soldier in an Ohio regiment. He was soon promoted to a commission and made adjutant of his regiment and acting assistant adjutant-general of the brigade, in which positions he was engaged in active service in the field, until the hardships and exposure of a military life acting upon a constitution naturally delicate, caused his health to fail, and probably sowed the seeds of the disease which finally terminated his life.

During the ensuing period of partial disability Captain Telford was attached to the staff of Brigadier-General T. W. Sherman, commanding in New Orleans, afterward successively to the staff of Brigadier-General Sibley and Pope, commanding in Minnesota, and of Lieutenant-General W. F. Sherman, commanding the Military Division of the Missouri. On the 21st of March, 1868, he was appointed second lieutenant of the Thirtieth Infantry, from which regiment he was subsequently transferred to the Second Artillery. During the last six years of his life he has served upon the personal staff of the present commander of this department, who desires to record his grateful appreciation of Captain Telford's uniformly zealous and faithful performance of all the duties devolved upon him.

The death of this young officer closes the record of a career marked by generous enthusiasm and gallant service in the cause of his country. Those of his comrades who knew him best will remember with pleasure the high sense of honor and amiable disposition which were his distinguishing characteristics, not less than his personal gallantry and devotion to the military service. In respect to his memory all officers of the staff of the department will wear the usual badge of mourning for the period of thirty days.

By command of Brigadier-General Terry.

O. D. GREENE, Assistant Adjutant-General.

Official: EDW. SMITH, Aide-de-Camp.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.

Brigadier-General John Pope: Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth.

Leave of absence for ten days has been granted Captain E. B. Grimes, A. Q., U. S. Army, to date from March 1.

**Sixth Cavalry.**—First Lieutenant G. E. Overton, February 14 was relieved from duty as judge-advocate of the G. C.-M. convened at Fort Riley, Kansas, by par. 2, S. O. No. 208, series of 1873, from department headquarters, and Major B. J. D. Irwin, surgeon U. S. A., detailed in his stead.

The leave of absence for seven days granted First Lieutenant W. M. Wallace, by par. 2, S. O. No. 23, c. s., from headquarters Fort Riley, Kansas, February 15, was extended twenty days.

The leave of absence for seven days granted First Lieutenant Sebree Smith, by S. O. No. 14, c. s., from headquarters Fort Dodge, Kansas, was extended ten days February 17.

**Fifth Infantry.**—First Lieutenant George McDermott, February 15 was ordered to Fort Dodge, Kansas, for duty with his company.

Leave of absence for twenty days was granted Second Lieutenant DeH. G. Quinby, February 21.

**Cavalry Depot, St. Louis, Mo.**—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at the Cavalry Depot, St. Louis, Mo., February 19. Detail for the court: Majors B. A. Clements, surgeon U. S. A.; W. A. Rucker, paymaster U. S. A.; Captain Henry Carroll, Ninth U. S. Cavalry; First Lieutenants D. A. Irwin, Fourth U. S. Cavalry, Lewis Warrington, Fourth U. S. Cavalry; Second Lieutenant L. F. Hunt, Tenth U. S. Cavalry. First



Lieutenant J. D. Stevenson, Eighth U. S. Cavalry, judge-advocate.

**Payment of Troops.**—Major J. B. M. Potter, paymaster U. S. Army, February 18 was directed to pay the troops stationed at Santa Fe and Fort Union, N. M.; Major A. B. Carey, paymaster U. S. Army, those at Fort Wingate, N. M.; Major Frank Bridgman, paymaster U. S. Army, those at Forts Craig, Tulerosa, McRae, Bayard, Cummings, Selden and Stanton, N. M., all to February 28, 1873, making first payments as soon after the 3d proximo as possible.

Major R. A. Kinzie, paymaster U. S. Army, February 17 was to pay the troops stationed at Chicago and at the Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois; Major W. A. Rucker, paymaster U. S. Army, the troops stationed at the Cavalry Depot St. Louis, Mo., and at Jefferson Barracks, Mo.; Major Nicholas Vedder, paymaster U. S. Army, the troops stationed at Leavenworth Arsenal and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Major E. H. Brooke, paymaster U. S. Army, the troops serving in Southeastern Kansas, at Forts Riley, Harker, Hays and Wallace, Kansas, Forts Lyon and Garland, C. T., and the stations of the Kansas Pacific Railroad to Denver city, C. T., February 28, 1873, making first payments not later than March 3; Major David Taylor, paymaster U. S. Army, the troops stationed at Forts Larned and Dodge, Kansas, Camp Supply and Fort Gibson, I. T., all to February 28, 1873, making first payments not later than March 3.

**Fifteenth Infantry.**—Second Lieutenants D. B. Burnham and C. M. De Lany February 20 were relieved from duty as members of the G. C. M. ordered to convene at Fort Wingate, N. M., by par. 3, S. O. No. 21, c. s., from department headquarters, and Assistant Surgeon J. V. DeHanne, U. S. Army, and First Lieutenant W. T. Hartz, were detailed in their stead. Captain W. A. Elderkin, C. S., U. S. Army, A. A. Q. and A. C. S. at Pueblo, C. T., February 20 was ordered to the chief quartermaster of the Department, on business connected with the Quartermaster's Department.

**Fort Larned, Kansas.**—Captain T. C. Tupper, Sixth U. S. Cavalry, and First Lieutenant George McDermott, Fifth U. S. Infantry, February 20, were detailed as members of the G. C. M. convened at Fort Larned, Kansas, by par. 4, S. O. No. 20, c. s., from department headquarters.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE.

*Brigadier-General E. O. C. Ord, Headquarters, Omaha, Nebraska.*

Leave of absence for thirty days, February 15 was granted Surgeon E. P. Vollum, Medical Department, in lieu of the leave of absence for twenty days granted him in par. 1, S. O. No. 113, of 1872, from department headquarters, of which he did not avail himself.

**Target Practice.**—The report of target practice in this Department for December, 1872, published in our issue of the 15th instant, contained an error, whereby it appears that the average distance of hits from centre of target of Company A, Thirteenth Infantry, is 173 inches, instead of 17 1-3 (seventeen and one-half) inches, as shown by the true report.

**Third Cavalry.**—Second Lieutenant James Allen, February 15 was appointed judge-advocate of the G. C. M. instituted by par. 1, S. O. No. 209, of 1872, from department headquarters, vice First Lieutenant Robert P. Warren, Fourteenth Infantry, relieved.

**Second Cavalry.**—Leave of absence for thirty days was granted Major James S. Bristin, February 18.

On the night of February 15th, a soldier named Richard Lawson, of Company B, Second Cavalry, was frozen to death between Fort Bridger and Carter's station, eleven miles distant. Colonel Brackett sent out and had the body brought in and properly buried.

**Promotions.**—First Lieutenant Henry W. Wessells, jr., Company M, has been promoted captain Company H, Third Cavalry, vice Stanwood, deceased; Second Lieutenant Augustus C. Paul, Company L, first lieutenant Company M, Third Cavalry, vice Wessells promoted; and Second Lieutenant Thomas S. Mumford, Company B, first lieutenant Company D, Thirteenth Infantry, vice Thompson, deceased; Lieutenants Paul and Mumford February 18, were ordered to join the stations to which they now belong.

**Fort D. A. Russell.**—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort D. A. Russell, W. T., February 24. Detail for the court: Lieutenant-Colonel Henry D. Wallen, Eighth Infantry; Majors George D. Ruggles, A. A. G.; Eugene M. Baker, Second Cavalry; John V. Du Bois, Third Cavalry; Captains Guido Ilges, Fourteenth Infantry; William Hawley, Third Cavalry; Andrew K. Long, C. S.; First Lieutenants Julius E. Quentin, Fourteenth Infantry; Cullen Bryant, O. D. Second Lieutenant Andrew H. Russell, Third Cavalry, judge-advocate.

#### MILITARY DIVISION OF THE SOUTH.

*Major-General I. McDowell: Headquarters, Louisville, Ky.*

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

*Major-General I. McDowell: Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky.*

**Posts Discontinued.**—Instructions from department headquarters dated February 17, state that on the withdrawal of the cavalry companies, the posts of Elizabethtown and Lebanon, Kentucky, and Unionville, South Carolina, will be discontinued.

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

*Colonel W. H. Emory: Headquarters, New Orleans, La.*

**Nineteenth Infantry.**—Leave of absence for twenty days was granted Second Lieutenant Warren B. Dunton, February 11.

Second Lieutenant John A. Payne, February 11 was ordered to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on business connected with the public property pertaining to Company B, Nineteenth Infantry.

A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, February 19. Assistant Sur-

geon J. V. D. Middleton, U. S. Army, and the following officers of the Nineteenth Infantry were detailed for the court: Captains H. E. Stansbury, William J. Lyster; First Lieutenants Thomas B. Robinson, John G. Leefe; Second Lieutenant A. McC. Guard. Second Lieutenant George H. Cook, judge-advocate.

**Fort Barrancas.**—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Barrancas, Fla., February 19. Detail for the court: Major John M. Brannan, Captain Richard H. Jackson, First Artillery; Assistant Surgeon George M. Sternberg, U. S. Army; First Lieutenants Thomas Ward, E. Van A. Andrus, James L. Sherman, First Artillery; Second Lieutenant Clermont L. Best, jr., First Artillery, judge-advocate.

**Baton Rouge.**—The General Court-martial which convened at Baton Rouge, La., in accordance with S. O. No. 197, dated headquarters Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, La., December 16, 1872, and of which Captain J. H. Bradford, Nineteenth Infantry, is president, dissolved January 31.

**Sixteenth Infantry.**—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Jackson, Mississippi, February 19. The following officers of the Sixteenth Infantry were detailed for the court: Major S. A. Wainwright; Captains Arthur W. Allen, W. H. Bartholomew; First Lieutenants Stephen K. Mahon, William H. Vinal, George B. Pickett; Second Lieutenant T. C. Woodbury. Second Lieutenant I. O. Shelby, judge-advocate.

**Fourth Infantry.**—A sad accident having deprived Lieutenant Webster, adjutant of this regiment, of his wife and only child, at a meeting of the officers of the regiment, stationed at Little Rock, Ark., held on the 12th day of February, 1873, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased Almighty God, in his own mysterious way, to remove from the society of the officers and the families of the Fourth Infantry the beloved wife of Lieutenant George O. Webster, adjutant Fourth Infantry: And whereas, By a late accident on the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, Mrs. Charlotte L. Webster, with her infant daughter, were instantly killed while en route to join the regiment at Little Rock, Ark.: Therefore

Resolved, That we, the officers of the Fourth Infantry, tender our heartfelt sympathy in this public manner to Lieutenant Webster in his bereavement, assuring him of the loss we have all met with by this unhappy occurrence, at the same time remembering the many virtues of his deceased wife, and the many occasions which have heretofore given us the pleasure of her society.

Resolved, That we, fully understanding the trying position which Lieutenant Webster was called upon to fill in having to care for his dead wife and child from Clarksville, Tenn., to Little Rock, Ark., and at the same time perform his soldierly duties in commanding the band and a detachment of enlisted men en route to join the regiment at this post, we do fully sympathize with him in the trying ordeal through which he has had to pass.

JOHN W. BUEB,  
First Lieut. and Reg't Q. M., Fourth Inf., Secretary.  
LITTLE ROCK, ARK., February 12, 1873.

#### MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC.

*Major-General W. S. Hancock: Headquarters, New York.*

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST.

*Maj.-Gen. W. S. Hancock: Headquarters, cor. Greene and Houston sts., N. Y.*

The following officers were registered at Headquarters Department of the East, for the week ending February 25: Captain C. W. Foster, assistant quartermaster U. S. Army; First Lieutenants H. J. Reilly, G. W. Crabb, W. B. Beck, O. H. Howard, Major Geo. P. Andrews, Fifth Artillery; First Lieutenant A. Clarke, Third Artillery; Captain A. Moore, Third Cavalry; First Lieutenants C. A. Coolidge, Seventh Infantry; W. M. Wallace, Sixth Cavalry; J. M. Norvell, Twelfth Infantry; Lieutenant-Colonel N. H. Davis, assistant inspector-general U. S. Army; First Lieutenant Edward Hunter, First Cavalry; Captain W. P. Huxford, U. S. Army; First Lieutenants John L. Worden, Jr., First Infantry, R. P. Warren, Fourteenth Infantry; Major William Myers, quartermaster U. S. Army.

The following is a roster of officers serving in this Department:

**Personal Staff.**—Captain William G. Mitchell, Fifth Infantry, A. D. C.; Captain John S. Wharton, Nineteenth Infantry, A. D. C.; First Lieutenant G. S. L. Ward, Twenty-second Infantry, A. D. C.

**Department Staff.**—Major Chauncey McKeever, A. A. G. U. S. A.; A. A. G.; Major Thomas F. Barr, J. A. U. S. A.; J. A.; Colonel Rufus Ingalls, A. Q. M.-General U. S. A.; Chief Q. M.; Major William W. Burns, C. S. U. S. A.; Chief C. S.; Major John M. Cuyler, Surgeon U. S. A.; M. D.; Major John Moore, surgeon U. S. A., attending surgeon; Colonel Nathan W. Brown, A. P. G. U. S. A., chief paymaster.

**Reater of Troops.**—Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H.—Colonel George W. Getty, Third Artillery.

Fort Lafayette, N. Y. H.—Ordnance Sergeant John Graves, in charge.

Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H.—Major Horatio G. Gibson, Third Artillery.

Fort Wood, N. Y. H.—Captain Erskine Gittings, Third Artillery.

Fort Columbus, N. Y. H.—Major Matthew M. Blunt, Fourteenth Infantry.

Fort Schuyler, N. Y. H.—Ordnance Sergeant Thomas Conack, in charge.

Willet's Point, N. Y. H.—Major Henry L. Abbott, U. S. Engineers.

David's Island, N. Y. H.—Major Robert V. W. Howard, Third Artillery.

Fort at Sandy Hook, N. Y. H.—Ordnance Sergeant W. Foster, in charge.

Fort Trumbull, New London, Conn.—Major George P. Andrews, Fifth Artillery.

Fort Griswold, New London Harbor.—Ordnance Sergeant M. W. Smith, in charge.

Plattsburg Barracks, Plattsburg, N. Y.—First Lieutenant Joseph Kneffe, Fifth Artillery.

Fort Montgomery, Rouse's Point, N. Y.—Ordnance Sergeant R. Grainger, in charge.

Watervliet Arsenal, West Troy, N. Y.; Rome Arsenal, Rome, N. Y.; Champlain Arsenal, Vergennes, Vt.—Colonel Peter V. Hager, Ordnance Department.

Watertown Arsenal, Watertown, Mass.—Lieutenant-Colonel Theodore T. S. Laidley, Ordnance Department.

Springfield Armory, Springfield, Mass.—Major James G. Benton, Ordnance Department.

Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, Mass.—Captain Jacob B. Rawles, Fifth Artillery.

Fort Independence, Boston Harbor, Mass.—Captain David H. Kinzie, Fifth Artillery.

Fort Winthrop, Boston Harbor, Mass.—Ordnance Sergeant Jacob Swartz, in charge.

Fort Standish, Plymouth, Mass.—Ordnance Sergeant Martin Keefe, in charge.

Fort Andrews, Plymouth, Mass.—Ordnance Sergeant Michael McGarry, in charge.

Fort Sewall, Marblehead, Mass.—Ordnance Sergeant P. McDonald, in charge.

Fort Phoenix, Fairhaven, Mass.—Ordnance Sergeant J. Wetzel, in charge.

Fort at Clark's Point, New Bedford, Mass.—Ordnance Sergeant G. S. P. Bradford, in charge.

Fort Constitution, Newcastle, N. H.—Ordnance Sergeant James Davidson, in charge.

Fort McCleary, Kittery Point, Me.—Ordnance Sergeant P. Gallagher, in charge.

Fort Preble, Portland, Me.—Major Truman Seymour, Fifth Artillery.

Fort Scammel, Portland, Me.—Ordnance Sergeant M. Canavan, in charge.

Fort Georges, Portland, Me.—Ordnance Sergeant J. W. Gilbert, in charge.

Fort Knox, Bucksport, Me.—Ordnance Sergeant Luke Walker, in charge.

Fort Popham, Parker's Head, Me.—Ordnance Sergeant Dennis Kelly, in charge.

Fort Sullivan, Eastport, Me.—Captain Edmond C. Bainbridge, Fifth Artillery.

Kennebec Arsenal, Augusta, Me.—Captain James M. Whittemore, Ordnance Department.

Fort Adams, Newport, R. I.—Colonel Henry J. Hunt, Fifth Artillery.

Fort on Dutch Island, Newport, R. I.—Ordnance Sergeant W. Duffy, in charge.

Fort Delaware, Delaware.—Ordnance Sergeant James Maxwell, in charge.

Frankford Arsenal, near Philadelphia, Pa.—Major Thomas J. Treadwell, Ordnance Department.

Fort Mifflin, near Philadelphia, Pa.—Ordnance Sergeant George Bromley.

Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pa.—Surgeon Joseph J. B. Wright, U. S. Army.

Allegheny Arsenal, Pittsburg, Pa.—Colonel Robert H. K. Whiteley, Ordnance Department.

Fort McHenry, Md.—Lieutenant-Colonel William H. French, Second Artillery.

Fort Washington, Md.—Ordnance Sergeant Joseph Cameron, in charge.

Fort Foote, Md.—First Lieutenant James C. Eastman, Second Artillery.

Pikeville Arsenal, Md.—Captain M. J. Grealish, Ordnance Storekeeper.

Washington Arsenal, D. C.—Lieutenant-Colonel F. D. Callender, Ordnance Department.

Fort Monroe, Va.—Colonel William F. Barry, Second Artillery.

Fort Monroe Arsenal, Va.—Major Thomas G. Baylor, Ordnance Department.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Montgomery, D. Q. M. G., Chief Q. M. 2d District, Boston, Mass.

Major Treadwell Moore, Q. M., Post Q. M. Fort Adams, R. I.

Major Charles G. Sawtelle, Q. M., Chief Q. M. 3d District, Philadelphia, Pa.

Major Richard N. Batchelder, Q. M., Chief Q. M. 1st District, New York City.

Captain Elias B. Carling, A. Q. M., Fort Monroe, Va. (Awaiting orders.)

Captain T. J. Eckerson, A. Q. M., Post Q. M., Fort Monroe, Va.

Captain Reuben M. Potter, military storekeeper, Pittsburg, Pa.

Captain V. Van Antwerp, military storekeeper, Baltimore, Md.

Major John McL. Taylor, C. S., Baltimore, Md.

Surgeons—A. N. McLaren, attending surgeon, Boston, Mass.; Joseph J. B. Wright, Carlisle Barracks, Pa.; Madison Mills, Fort Columbus, N. Y. H.; Josiah Simpson, attending surgeon, Baltimore, Md.; William S. King, attending surgeon, Philadelphia; John Campbell, Fort Adams, R. I.; John E. Summers, Fort Monroe, Va.; Alexander B. Haason, Fort Trumbull, Conn.; John Moore, attending surgeon, New York city; James C. McKee, Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H.; Warren Webster, Fort Independence, Mass.; Charles C. Byrne, Willett's Point, N. Y. H.; Charles C. Gray, Fort Wood, N. Y. H.; Francis L. Town, Fort Preble, Me.; Dallas Bache, Fort McHenry, Md.; C. E. Goddard, Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H.

Assistant Surgeons—H. R. Tilton, David's Island, N. Y. H.; Charles Smart, Fort Monroe, Va.; Alexander H. Hoff, Fort Columbus, N. Y. H.; John V. Lauderdale, Fort Hamilton, N. Y. H.; Alfred D. Wilson, Fort Warren, Mass.; Augustus A. Yeomans, Fort Sullivan, Me.; Leonard Y. Loring, Plattsburg Barracks, N. Y.; Washington Matthews, Willett's Point, N. Y. H. (temporarily); C. E. Munn, Fort Adams, R. I.

Acting Assistant Surgeon J. W. Bayne, Fort Foote, Md.

Major Henry Prince, paymaster, New York city.

Major Edward Wright, paymaster, New York city.

Major John P. Brus, paymaster, Philadelphia, Pa.

Post Chaplains—Mark L. Chevers, Fort Monroe, Va.; Osgood E. Herick, Fort Warren, Mass.

The several offices connected with department headquarters were closed on Saturday, the 23d instant, (the anniversary of the birthday of Washington).

**Leaves of Absence.**—A letter of instruction from the War Department, to the commanding general Department of the East, states that "the Secretary of War has decided that the custom, which prevails in some of the Military Geographical Departments, of allowing a leave of absence to take effect from a date other than that on which the officer leaves his proper station, is inadmissible."



ble under the law regulating the pay of officers while on leave of absence. Hereafter, when an officer on leave of absence remains away from his station longer than the time specified in the original leave and such extensions as may be granted by competent authority, he will be reported to the Pay Department as absent without leave. Department commanders are requested to issue such orders as will insure correct reports on all post returns of the dates of departure and return of all officers granted leave of absence, including, in all cases, leave granted by post commanders."

**Second Artillery.**—First Lieutenant George Mitchell, February 18 was relieved from duty as a member of the G. C.-M. instituted in par. 9, S. O. No. 33, c. s., department headquarters, and First Lieutenant J. H. Calef, adjutant was detailed in his stead.

First Lieutenant J. B. Burbank, Third Artillery, was relieved from duty as a member of the General Court-martial instituted in par. 2, S. O. No. 32, c. s., from department headquarters.

**Fort Monroe, Va.**—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Monroe, Va., February 21. Detail for the court: Major G. A. De Russy, Third Artillery; Captains Richard Loder, Fourth Artillery; E. R. Warner, Third Artillery; First Lieutenants Arthur Morris, Fourth Artillery; J. A. Fessenden, Fifth Artillery; R. G. Shaw, First Artillery; Second Lieutenants J. A. Campbell, Second Artillery; G. P. Cotton, First Artillery; W. B. Weir, Fifth Artillery. First Lieutenant Frederick Robinson, Fifth Artillery, judge-advocate.

**Watertown, Mass., Arsenal.**—A typographical error completely altered the statement we intended to make last week in regard to the Court-martial imbroglio at this station. It appears that a Court-martial, consisting of Captains Gilbreth, Marye and Michaelis, of the Ordnance Corps, was convened to try Private Ash for conduct contrary to good order and military discipline, for leaving his working party without orders, and the judgment of the court was rendered upon the man's plea of guilty. By order of Colonel Laidley, the court was reconvened for the purpose of correcting what was thought to be an error, and to expurgate the expression that the verdict was found "after mature deliberation, upon the evidence adduced." The court declared that they believed their report to correct, as a plea of guilty is considered equal to the testimony of two witnesses by all laws bearing upon the subject. The Colonel reconvened the court after this in an order rather uncomplimentary to their intellectual capacity, and they were ordered to obey a circular issued by General McDowell, while in command of the Department of the East. The court then reported that they obeyed the circular, but protested against the right of the Colonel to issue such an order. Once more the Court-martial was reconvened, and the order iterated, but the court claimed they had obeyed the order and could do nothing further, as they should be left to decide for themselves what form of expression should be chosen to declare their finding in accordance with law and custom. Upon this they were placed under arrest.

**Fort Columbus, N. Y. H.**—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Columbus, N. Y. H., March 8. Detail for the court: Captains Thomas Britton, Sixth Infantry; J. R. Kelly, First Lieutenant; G. F. Barstow, Third Artillery; R. W. Bard, Second Infantry; Second Lieutenants B. H. Randolph, Third Artillery; E. B. Pratt, Twenty-third Infantry; G. A. Jaeger, Twelfth Infantry. First Lieutenant James Chester, Third Artillery, judge-advocate.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE LAKES.

**Brigadier-General P. St. G. Cooke:** Headquarters, Detroit, Mich.

**First Infantry.**—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Wayne, Michigan, February 17. Surgeon Joseph R. Smith, U. S. Army, and the following officers of the First Infantry were detailed for the court: Captains R. H. Offley, Kinzie Bates, George S. Gallupe, First Lieutenants D. F. Callinan, R. G. Heiner, H. R. Jones. Second Lieutenant Gilbert S. Jennings, judge-advocate. First Lieutenant William E. Dougherty, relieved from General Recruiting Service, and it being impracticable for him to join his station, Fort Brady, Michigan, at this season of the year, February 15 was ordered to Fort Porter, for temporary duty at that post.

**Fort Porter.**—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Porter, Buffalo, N. Y., February 19. Detail for the court: Surgeon C. H. Alden, U. S. Army; Captains G. H. Weeks, assistant quartermaster U. S. Army; R. E. Johnston, Wm. N. Tiedall, First Infantry; First Lieutenants W. E. Dougherty, F. M. Lynde, First Infantry. First Lieutenant John Tyler, R. Q. M., judge-advocate.

Leave of absence for thirty days was granted Chaplain C. W. Fitch, U. S. Army, February 20.

#### MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC.

**Major-Gen. J. M. Schofield:** Headquarters San Francisco, Cal.

The following officers reported at Headquarters Military Division of the Pacific during the week ending Feb. 18: Captains Moses Harris, First Cavalry; Robert P. Wilson, Fifth Cavalry.

#### DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA.

**Twelfth Infantry.**—Captain Charles S. Tripler, February 10 was ordered to join his company at Camp Gaston, California.

A. A. Surgeon B. Semig, U. S. Army, February 10 was assigned to duty, temporarily, at Alcatraz Island, while awaiting a reply from the A.-G.'s O. to his application to be assigned to duty in the Department of Arizona.

**Fort Yuma.**—A General Court-martial was ordered to assemble at Fort Yuma, Cal., January 20. Detail for the court: Captain J. W. Mason, Fifth Cavalry; Captain A. F. Rockwell, assistant quartermaster U. S. Army; Captain Geo. S. Rose, assistant surgeon U. S. Army; Captain A. B. MacGowan, Twelfth Infantry; First Lieutenant R. L. Eskridge, Twenty-third Infantry; Sec-

ond Lieutenant J. J. Clague, Twelfth Infantry. First Lieutenant Jno. L. Viven, Twelfth Infantry, judge-advocate.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA.

**Brigadier-General E. R. S. Canby:** Headquarters, Portland, Oregon.

**Second Artillery.**—First Lieutenant Louis V. Caziarc, February 8 was ordered to Kalama, W. T., for the purpose of making tracing from the surveys of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. On completion of this duty he will rejoin his station.

**The Modoc War.**—First Lieutenant Henry N. Moss, First Cavalry, joining his company in the Modoc country, from leave, February 3 was ordered to conduct to the command of Colonel Gillem the enlisted men at the Presidio, and at Angel Island, and Benicia Barracks, for Battery E, Fourth Artillery, Companies B and I, Twenty-first Infantry, and Troops B, H, and K, First Cavalry. These men will be armed, equipped, supplied with two hundred rounds of ammunition per man and with shelter tents, for service in the field.

Feb. 14, a detachment of the Twenty-first Infantry and Fourth Artillery left San Francisco under command of Lieutenant Moss, en route for the Modoc war. They went by way of Benicia, where they were to be joined by cavalry recruits.

#### DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA.

**Lieutenant-Colonel George Crook:** Headquarters, Prescott, A. T.

**Fifth Cavalry.**—Major William B. Royall, February 5 was ordered to his station, in the Department of Arizona, by the *Neuborn* the next trip of this steamer, via Fort Yuma, California.

FEBRUARY 4 Speaker Blaine, having called Mr. Dawes to the chair, appeared on the floor of the House of Representatives and said he had just had an interview which had deeply touched him. It was with the widow of Robert C. Wood, late assistant surgeon in the United States Army, and a daughter of Zachary Taylor, late President of the United States. She had presented a petition, which he did not ask to have read, but it showed that a daughter of Zachary Taylor was in need of assistance. Mr. Blaine then introduced a bill granting Mrs. Wood a pension of \$50 per month, to date from the death of her husband, March 28, 1869, which was passed by a unanimous vote. The bill went over to the Senate, and was referred to the Committee on Pensions.

#### ARMY-STAFF ORGANIZATION.

MR. COBURN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following report on this subject, to which we referred last week:

The question of re-organizing the staff of the Army is one of such magnitude that the committee were reluctant to set upon it without mature reflection and the fullest possible consultation with those who are practically as well as theoretically well-informed upon the subjects involved, and, as a preliminary step, propounded certain interrogatories to a large number of officers of the Army, whose education as well as experience on the staff and in the line necessarily gave them the amplest opportunities to make themselves familiar with all the points in controversy. Their views accompany this report, and form, it is believed, a representative collection of the various opinions of our Army officers upon the subject of staff duties and organization, and combine such a mass of thought upon the points mooted as can be found nowhere else. The differences of opinion upon many of the most important questions are radical and thorough, and involve the inquirer in an investigation of subjects which have exhausted the capacities of the most profound and successful military leaders from the beginning of the period when the waging of war became a science; for to adjust and perfect the subtle and intricate machinery by which great masses of soldiers are to be fed, clothed, armed, moved, inspired with confidence and carried through victorious battle, is, after all, wrapped up in the perfection of staff organization. Take the best field officers, take the best-drilled soldiers, take a good cause, take all natural advantages of situation, and take away from the general the indispensable aid he must have in an efficient staff, and neither courage, good conduct, nor skill in the line can redeem a large army from the character of a mob. The work, then, which the committee found before them has been approached with no small degree of hesitation and misgiving.

The first proposition that met them was that of the consolidation of certain departments of the staff. Are the duties of these departments properly distributed, or can they be combined for more efficient action?

To answer this question properly it is necessary that we should determine in some measure what is to be the extent of the Army for which a staff should be provided. In time of peace our Army is but a skeleton; it suffices to carry on war against the feeble tribes of savages upon the frontier, and to occupy posts upon the border, but for any purposes of foreign war is totally inadequate. It is designed for a state of hostilities in some measure commensurate with the power of our people, and with the foreign foes of great force against whom we may be compelled to contend. And the question arises whether in a momentous emergency of that kind we can safely trust under the control of any single man more than one of the present departments or corps of the staff. Has the Quartermaster-General any less than he can do well at such a time? And so with the Inspector, the Adjutant, the Paymaster, and the Commissary-General, and Chief of Ordnance, and the Corps of Engineers?

The classification of staff duties should be such that those of any branch can be promptly and efficiently discharged in time of war on a large scale. And unless we have an organization capable of expansion to an almost unlimited extent, we may well question whether it rests upon a safe basis.

The present division of duties is the result of long experience, and very recently, in the struggle against rebellion, was found to work successfully in the widest theatre of action. Is there any other system that will

operate more favorably than this? If so, what are the combinations and subdivisions that will secure the desired end?

The head of each department should be able to have a thorough and personal knowledge of its affairs, and should be able at all times to know its entire operations, and manage them with facility. Not to be able to do this is regarded justly as a defect; while, on the other hand, a counterbalancing evil occurs by the fact that these departments, having a different responsibility, do not at times work in harmony with each other.

The head of each department should be thoroughly acquainted with all the minutiae of it, and never at a loss to detect errors or derelictions of duty. Nothing but long experience as a permanent officer in this department can give this. The danger is that, by long custom and routine, he may become rigid, formal, technical, and unable to accommodate himself to circumstances and to rise with great emergencies; may "rust in the staff." But this evil is more than counterbalanced by the superior knowledge, skill, and ability gathered by long and faithful service; indeed, such qualifications then become almost invaluable.

A perfect acquaintance with his duties, a familiarity with all its details, a pride and spirit in their prompt and exact discharge, are the result of veteran service in the staff departments, and while many of the duties in the different branches are similar in part, yet the division is sufficiently marked to prevent collisions or discord.

The committee are well satisfied that many, and, indeed, the most of the duties of the Quartermaster's and Commissary, and some of the Ordnance Department, are akin to each other, and that the same officer could ordinarily discharge such duties at the same time; for instance, the purchasing, caring for, and transporting arms, stores of various kinds, and the accounting therefor, require skill and ability of a like character in each department; the care, custody, and disbursing of public funds, with the accounts to be kept of them, are of the same general character in the Quartermaster's, Commissary, Ordnance, and Pay Departments. The first three departments have many points in common and yet are sufficiently diverse to justify their separation when great emergencies require a sudden and important effort from each. At such a time it would seem that the duties of any one of these departments are sufficient for the officers assigned to their discharge. To consolidate them in peace would but require their separation in war, in effect if not in name. The duties to be performed under the head of a single great department of supply, embracing these three, would be classified and arranged at last to fall into different hands, and whatever might be their application, could hardly be better disposed of than as at present.

While in time of peace the number of officers and their clerks would be somewhat decreased, on the other hand, in time of war, it would not be materially reduced, and it is very questionable whether the efficiency of one head for the three departments would be as great with the vastly increased responsibility thus thrown upon him. The danger would be that the overburdened department would, at the very time when its efforts were most needed, sink beneath the load. And this is the point which should at no time be overlooked.

On the other hand it is urged that "the general similarity of duties, unity of action, some reduction in the aggregate number of officers, more uniform promotion, greater room for economy in the distribution of officers to particular bureaus or branches of duty, according to their fitness, and a larger field from which to select officers for important administrative positions in times of emergency," would justify a consolidation of the quartermaster's, commissary, pay, and the administrative branch of the Ordnance Department into a single one of supply. The advantages thus to be gained cannot be denied, but are deemed of less importance than those the present system affords, with its division of labor and distribution of responsibility.

The question of the consolidation of the Ordnance and artillery, or the Ordnance and engineers, is one upon which there is much difference of opinion. The manufacture and the adoption or the making of improvements in arms, the establishment of works of defence, and the making of fortifications, are duties of a scientific character somewhat similar in their nature. The ascertainment of the power of guns, and the resistance of works to shot, the placing of torpedoes, and their construction, the building of forts, and their armament, all seem to be within the range of duties of one class of officers; certainly all such might be discharged by them. The scientific character of such operations removes them distinctly from those of the departments of supply and those which constitute the medium of command or of assistance in the execution of the authority of the general. But whether such a combination of duties would diminish the number of officers, and add efficiency to the service, is questionable. It certainly would require higher cultivation to be able to do the scientific duties of the present Ordnance and Engineer Corps than of either one separately, as at present, and the training of officers to the duties of both is, no doubt, desirable. But a consolidation of two corps that have done so well hardly rises above the range of experiment.

The distribution of scientific labor, like that of all other kinds, has been found to be advantageous, and the greatest skill, as well as the most rapid progress, is the sure result of such division. There seems to be no more reason why the Ordnance Corps should be consolidated with the artillery than the infantry or cavalry, for it is the duty of that corps to make, improve, and supply all kinds of ammunition and arms to the service, small as well as great. The evidence goes mainly to show that the Ordnance should be kept as a separate branch of the staff, as at present.

A suggestion, not without weight, is made that there should be three additional staff officers at Army headquarters, or with the Secretary of War. These are a chief of artillery, a chief of cavalry, and a chief of infantry, whose specialties shall be to look after the in-



terests of each particular arm, whose knowledge and skill would inspire confidence, and whose character would give authority to his declarations upon the subject intrusted to his care.

The consolidation of the Inspector's with the Adjutant-General's Department, though advocated by a few, has met with general disfavor. Their duties are but slightly akin, and the independence of the inspectors from all branches of the line and staff can only be secured by a complete separation from them. The duties of the Adjutant-General confine him closely to his post, to his record, and to the promulgation of orders; those of the Inspector carry him over a wide field and lead him to a thorough knowledge of the entire administration of Army affairs, in camps, in the field, on the march, as to its police, drill, discipline, and spirit, as well as supplies, arms, and health. An excellent adjutant might be a poor inspector, while an excellent inspector could not fail to be a good adjutant. Would it not be better that these Departments should be combined, and thus add to the efficiency of the Adjutant-General's Department by placing within its reach a complete view of the whole management of the Army? With adjutant-generals of such qualifications the burdens of commanders would be very greatly lightened, and their efficiency increased.

Perhaps a sufficient reason for keeping these Departments separate is found in the facts that the Inspector's Department is quite small, embracing but a few officers, and that the Adjutant-General's Department should be inspected by a separate and independent one. An important improvement in the system might be made by clothing inspectors with discretionary powers to issue orders in the name of the commander for the correction of the evils discovered. The powers of inspectors in this regard should be co-equal with those of adjutant-generals; and it is believed there could be no possible conflict of authority or clashing under such a system.

The Medical Department and Bureau of Military Justice, being professional and scientific specialties of the highest order, are removed from all questions of consolidation with any other branches of the staff.

In view of these reflections, and of the testimony adduced from the most respectable authority, it is fair to conclude that the consolidation of any one of the different staff corps and departments with another is inexpedient. Whatever might be gained in expense in time of peace, would possibly and probably be lost in war, when a divided responsibility, as at present, would become necessary, and might devolve upon inexperienced hands.

If consolidation is inexpedient, is there any other project of reform that is feasible? The committee made inquiry into the subject of the permanency of the staff, the confining of officers to specialties of the service, and their efficiency and ability in consequence of such limitation of their duties. Upon this subject there is a variety of opinion among officers.

As to the question whether there should be a permanent staff, there was no doubt. But as to what portion of it should be permanent, and what detailed, there is great diversity. Some would cut down the present number of staff officers largely, leaving but a few at the head of each branch; others would fix the number and fill up all vacancies permanently, from the lowest to the highest. Others occupy an intermediate position, and would leave the lower portions of each branch vacant, to be filled by detail from the line, as a school and preparation for the more responsible duties of the higher ranks of the staff or line, as future emergencies may require.

The testimony is concurrent that the knowledge and experience gained by the performance of staff duties is of the greatest value; that the officer has been fortunate who in his earlier career may have by practice acquired a complete knowledge of the adjutant's, the quartermaster's, commissary's and the inspector's duties, each and all so necessary to daily efficiency in the service, whether in the camp or the field. And if he can add to these the practice in the Ordnance and Engineer Corps, he may be safely said to combine in his experience the highest preparation for the great soldier.

Can this experience be given to the younger officers of the Army by a system of details in different branches of the staff? It seems to be possible and worthy the experiment. The additional question here arises, should they be detailed from different branches of the permanent staff to do duties in the others alternately, or should they be detailed from the line to go back to it again to serve with the troops? If the former, then the vacancies of the staff should be filled at once, and a system of details adopted by which these officers could be transferred from one branch to another. So that the entire staff should, in the shortest possible time, become acquainted with all its varied duties, not strictly scientific specialties. On the other hand, if the latter proposition be the better one, the vacancies in the staff should be left open, and provision be made for the selection of efficient, intelligent, and meritorious officers of the line to do the required staff duties. Will the service suffer by reason of such a system of details? Is a question that here arises. It would seem, with capable heads to each branch of the staff, and an experienced corps of officers to aid him, that no possible detriment could occur from a system of details from the officers of the line. In the volunteer service a system of details was absolutely essential and worked well. If the detail for staff duties was made after a thorough examination, and as a reward of meritorious service, competition would furnish capable and qualified officers for all the vacancies that would occur.

The report concludes with a brief notice of the opinions of some officers favoring details for the staff and opposed to entire permanency, viz.: Generals Barry, Roberts, Wood, Kingsbury, Brannan, Heintzelman, Ord, Franklin, Crawford, Hooker, Hateson, Casey, Augur, Upton, Doubleday, Stanley, Gibbon, Grierson, Crook, Buell, Hazen, McClellan, Reynolds, Sherman.

## THE NAVY.

The Editor invites for this department of the JOURNAL all facts of interest to the Navy, especially such as relate to the movements of officers or vessels.

### VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

THE *Wasp* and *Lancaster* were at Montevideo December 31.

THE *Ticonderoga* sailed from Montevideo December 31 for Rio de Janeiro.

It is expected that the new engines for the *Mohican* will be built at the Mare Island Navy-yard.

THE *St. Marys*, Commander T. C. Harris, upon her way home from the Pacific Ocean, probably before again going on a cruise will be altered into a steamer.

Two thousand flags, the property of the Navy Department alone, have been turned over to the use of the decoration committee for the inauguration. There is no doubt that the ceremonies, especially the ball, will be distinguished for its colors.

A DESPATCH from Havana dated February 17 says: "While a number of grocery warehouses were on fire here to-day, the U. S. steamer *Worcester* landed her pumps well manned. The sailors did their work in the palace yard, surrounded by crowds of admiring Havanaes."

THE Committees on Public Buildings and Grounds held a joint meeting February 23 on the subject of the Farragut statue, and adjourned until the 25th instant, when it was supposed they would make a decision as to the most appropriate model, and award the contract to the successful competitor.

CAPTAIN L. L. Dawson, Lieutenant Henry C. Coolidge and fifty marines from the Philadelphia Navy-yard; Lieutenant M. C. Goodrell with fifty more from the Naval Academy, and Lieutenant W. F. Zeilin, with the guard of the frigate *Constellation*, arrived at the headquarters of the Marine Corps on Tuesday night, February 25, to join the battalion being organized for the inauguration parade.

THE ex-Mayor of Boston, Mr. Gaston, has recently addressed a letter of thanks, which has been filed in the Navy Department, by the commandant of the corps, to Lieutenant-Colonel James H. Jones, commanding the marines at Charlestown, Mass., expressing his thanks for the promptness with which the marines under Captain Collum and Lieutenants Wallace and Wells responded to the call for assistance, during the great fire, and for their valuable and faithful services.

MR. CRAGIN, from the Senate Naval Committee, reported February 20 adversely on the following bills, and they were indefinitely postponed: To advance Chief Engineer John W. Moore on the list; (Senate No. 753), for the relief of certain officers; to provide for building a hospital at Pensacola; to advance Commander F. Bunce one grade; for the relief of Albert S. Greene; to appoint Fred T. Peet a lieutenant of marines; (Senate 140), case of William Welch; to restore George M. Book to the active list.

THE *Alaska* was put out of commission at the Brooklyn Navy-yard February 26. As this vessel returns from her cruise on the Asiatic Station in pretty fair condition, she will not require very extensive repairs. It is understood she is to be taken in hand immediately and repaired and refitted for service. The *Alaska* has been inspected by the board of inspecting officers, and reported efficient in all her departments. She has borne a high reputation for efficiency during her entire cruise.

THE *California*, flagship of Rear-Admiral A. M. Pennock, arrived at Honolulu, January 15, fifteen days and twenty hours from San Francisco. The Hawaiian flag was saluted with twenty-one guns. The *Benicia* arrived at Honolulu January 8. The two vessels will probably remain in that vicinity for some time. Rear-Admiral Pennock, accompanied by the United States Minister and several officers of the Navy, visited the new Cabinet and Governor of the Island, and the interview was of an agreeable character.

THE *Lackawanna*, flagship of Rear-Admiral Jenkins, arrived at Calcutta, India, December 20, eight days from Penang. She left Singapore December 6, and arrived at Penang the 8th, where the customary salutes were exchanged with the port, and the Admiral and his staff visited the Vice-Governor, McCampbell. The visit was returned by his Excellency. Every attention was shown to the American officers by the authorities and citizens of Penang. The *Lackawanna* left there December 12, and arrived, as above stated, on the evening of the 20th at Calcutta. From the latter port the Admiral proposed to proceed to Point de Galle, Ceylon, touching possibly on the way at one or two intermediate ports, and hoped to meet the *Hartford* at Point de Galle.

FIRST LIEUTENANT RICHARD R. NEILL, U. S. M. C., now stationed at the Philadelphia Navy-yard, has published a very useful little volume for the pocket entitled "General Instructions and routine of duties on board ship for the United States Marine Corps; containing orders for sentinels, forming guards, etc., to which are added orders in reference to Marine Guards, issued by the Secretary of the Navy." Its object is to bring together in convenient form, the many useful and important orders, regulations, general instructions, and routine of duties that have been observed by various officers of the Marine Corps when in command of guards, on board vessels of war, and the endeavor has been to select the best materials from all accessible sources.

THE Senate has passed the bill for the relief of Captain Geo. Henry Preble. In explaining the bill Mr. Morrill of Maine said: "This officer has been a most meritorious officer for thirty years in the public service, and he got jostled out of the position he should have had by the merest inadvertence in the world, as I think my friend

would be satisfied if he would carefully examine the papers, and this bill simply allows him to take that place. I agree with the Senator unquestionably on the subject of the commodore. I doubt whether the rank is at all necessary in our service, and I shall most cheerfully give him my best support to abolish that entire grade in conformity to the recommendation of the Secretary of the Navy, whenever I can get an opportunity to vote upon it."

AN amendment by Mr. Sawyer to the Naval Appropriation bill, as follows, was rejected by the Senate: "Provided, That nothing in this or any preceding act shall prevent the promotion of an officer on the retired list to the next superior grade who at the time of his retirement under the act may have reached the highest number of his grade and honorably completed the term of active service; and this rule shall apply to any officer who may have heretofore fulfilled the above-mentioned conditions." Also an amendment proposed by Mr. Nye, viz.: "That the several chiefs of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, Provisions and Clothing, and Steam Engineering may be appointed from the senior fifteen officers of the respective staff corps as found on the active list of the Navy." And its subsequent modification: "That the Chief of the Bureau of Steam Engineering may be appointed from the list of engineer officers having the relative rank of captain or commander in the Navy."

A SMALL boat arrived at Panama on the morning of February 11 from Chiriqui, the scene of the labor of the Darien Surveying Expedition, under command of Commander Thomas O. Selfridge. The expedition left there on the *Tuscarora* in the latter part of January. After examining the coast of the Darien for a week or more they selected the bay named above as the most suitable base for this year's operations. The bay is located some fifteen miles south of Limon bay, which was the base of last year's surveys. The expedition had already commenced its work, and had penetrated some distance into the interior. The line of a survey proposed was to the Bojaya river and down the stream to the Atrato river. The route is looked upon as more favorable than that of the Napipi of last year. Mr. Smith, who accompanied the expedition as pilot, returned to Panama and furnishes the above particulars. He reports the expedition in good health and spirits, and says Captain Selfridge is actively engaged on shore superintending the work in person.

THE *Vallejo Chronicle* says: The *Colorado*, Captain C. H. Baldwin, is expected to arrive home about the middle of March. Upon her arrival she will be inspected throughout by the Board of Inspection, consisting of Commodore E. L. Roy, Commodore John Guest, and Commander R. Lewis, and after said inspection she will be placed out of commission and laid up in ordinary, as it is the intention of the Secretary of the Navy to keep in commission few, if any, of the large ships of the navy, he believing the few now allowed the navy (8,500) can better be divided up among a greater number of small vessels. The *Shawmut* will soon be ordered to return to the United States from the North Atlantic squadron, and rumor has it that Rear-Admiral J. E. Green, of that command, will transfer his flag to the *Richmond*, and his present flagship, *Worcester*, will be ordered home and placed out of commission. The *Plymouth*, Captain R. W. Shufeldt, which vessel has nearly completed a cruise of three years upon the Mediterranean station, is now under orders to make a short cruise upon the west coast of Africa, proceeding as far down the coast as Monrovia, and from thence to return to the United States. She is to be placed out of commission after inspection upon her arrival, and she will be repaired for another cruise as soon as possible. As yet no vessel has been assigned as the relief of the *Plymouth*, although a rumor prevails that the *Juniata* or *Monongahela* will be ordered, the one to proceed to the Brazil squadron and the other to the Mediterranean squadron. Probably three vessels will be assigned to the Brazil squadron, where there is said to be only two efficient vessels and one lame duck, the *Wasp*, said to be not in a condition to go to sea and only useful for cruising in the quiet waters of the Rio de la Plata. A Washington correspondent says orders have been sent to the Mare Island Navy-yard to prepare the *Kearsarge* for sea cruising.

A CORRESPONDENT writing from Naples, Italy, on February 2, says: "The Congress is here, and will sail on the 10th for Spezzia, where she will go into dry-dock and then to Nice. During her trip East she visited Valetta, Malta, Chanak, Turkey, Jaffa, Beyrout, Port Said, and Alexandria. At the latter port the Viceroy of Egypt extended an invitation to Captain Rhind and officers to visit him at the Royal Palace, Cairo. Among those presented to the Khedive by Consul-General Beardslee were Captain Rhind, commanding *Congress*, Chief Engineer Latch, Paymaster Geo. Cochran, Lieutenants Hunter, U. S. Navy, Lieutenant Green, U. S. M. C., and Master William Everett, who were received cordially by the prince. The Congress stopped at Messina on her return and was visited by the Governor-General, who was handsomely entertained by Captain Rhind, who often proved his gallantry during the late civil war. The *Wachusett* arrived here on the 29th with Admiral Alden and staff and Consul-General of Florence. She will remain here till the 1st of March, then sail for Syracuse, Sicily, Malta, Alexandria, Port Said, Jaffa, Smyrna, Dardanelles, Athens, Corfu, and Trieste. The *Wachusett* is here, and will make an eastern trip during March. The *Brooklyn* reached here a few days ago from Spezzia. She encountered a severe gale off Civita Vecchia, losing her steam outter. The *Shawmut* experienced terrific blows on her passage north from Syracuse; and is now at Spezzia in dry-dock. She will go from there to Nice and then to Barcelona. On the 5th the authorities of Naples will make a special cavalcade at Pompeii in honor of Admiral James Alden. The *Plymouth* has sailed for home. Midshipman Dabney has been ordered to the *Brooklyn*; Midshipman Roller detached from the *Wachusett* and ordered home.



on the *Plymouth*; Midshipman Stanton has resigned and ordered to take passage in the *Plymouth*.

A VERY singular case of court-martial at the Charlestown Navy-yard has been pending for several weeks past, says the Boston Sunday Herald of February 23, and "for ways that are dark" it has seldom been equalled to the annals of court-martial in this country. "It appears that two officers of equal grade in the naval service, Lieutenant-commanders, by the way, were stationed at Newport, and one of them was in command. On a certain occasion the Lieutenant-Commander commanding ordered his peer in the service, Lieutenant-Commander William K. Wheeler, to assist in manning a boat and pulling one of the oars. The officer objected to performing the duty of an ordinary seaman and questioned the right of his brother officer to order him to perform such service. The result was that Lieutenant-Commander Wheeler was placed under arrest and suspended from duty, but subsequently was released and restored to all the rights and privileges guaranteed him by his commission. The question as to who was right and who was wrong in the matter had not been settled, however, and in order to decide the problem Lieutenant-Commander Wheeler forwarded a statement of the case to the Navy Department at Washington and requested a decision. The request was not complied with, but the chief of the department ordered a court-martial to be convened at the Navy-yard, and Lieutenant-Commander Wheeler to be tried for disobedience of orders. The Board of Officers consisted of Commodore E. G. Parrott, president; Commodore E. T. Nichols, Captains J. W. A. Nicholson, Thomas G. Corbin, James S. Thornton, Commanders William T. Truxton and Robert F. Bradford. When the court convened Lieutenant-Commander Wheeler set up a plea in bar, based on the articles of war, claiming that as he had once been punished for an alleged misdemeanor, by being placed under arrest and suspended from duty, and was subsequently released and restored to service, he could not again be amenable for the same alleged offence. The court took the plea under consideration, and after careful deliberation decided that the point of law was correct, and the Lieutenant-Commander was therefore excused from further attendance on the court. The findings were sent to Washington by the president of the board, and the matter was supposed to be settled forever. A few days afterwards, however, the chief of the Naval Department returned the findings overruled, and ordered the court to proceed with the investigation. The solicitor of the Navy Department subsequently gave his time and attention to working up the matter, and the department is evidently determined to carry the investigation to extremes. The court-martial is obliged to obey orders from headquarters, and will hold another session before long, when Lieutenant-Commander Wheeler will answer to the charges preferred. It is hardly probable that they will find against the officer, as the case in point has already been well settled in law."

At a stated meeting of the Commandery of the State of New York, M. O. L. U. S., held at the Army and Navy Club House February 5, 1873, the following report of a committee, appointed to draft resolutions relative to the decease of Companion Mead, was adopted:

Whereas, Since our last meeting, it hath pleased Almighty God to remove by death our companion and fellow-officer, George L. Mead, paymaster, U. S. Navy, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we convey to his family our heartfelt sympathy for this their sad bereavement. The sudden death of Paymaster Mead is to all his brother officers and companions a personal loss, to whom he had endeared himself by his many sterling qualities and devotion to duty.

Resolved, That while we mourn with those that mourn, we shall always cherish a pleasant recollection of his attachment to the service, and how he inspired us with admiration as a true gentleman and warm friend.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of our deceased companion, be entered on our minutes, and published in the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

HENRY T. SKEELING, P. Asst. Paymaster, U. S. N.,  
EDWARD L. MOLLAN, Bvt. Maj.-Gen., U. S. Vols.,  
G. R. BARRY, Paymaster, U. S. Navy,  
Committee.

Paymaster Mead was born in New York, and appointed from that State an acting assistant paymaster in the Navy on September 11, 1862; was attached to the steamer *Sovereign* (Mississippi squadron) 1862-'63, and the steam gunboat *Itasca* (West Gulf Blockading squadron) 1864; was on the receiving ship *New York* 1865, and on the steamer *South Carolina* (Atlantic squadron) 1866, and was appointed past assistant paymaster on July 23 of the same year; served on the steamer *Memphis* (Atlantic squadron) 1866; was naval storekeeper at Key West, Fla., from 1867 to 1869, and in the latter year was commissioned as paymaster; was on the iron-clad *Dictator* 1870-'71, and was inspector of provisions and clothing at Mare Island, Cal., 1871-'72, which was the last duty he performed.

The following is the text of the act "to authorize the construction of eight steam vessels-of-war, and for other purposes." Approved February 10, 1873:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Navy be authorized to construct eight steam vessels-of-war, with auxiliary sail-power, and of such class or classes as, in his judgment, will best subserve the demands of the service, each carrying six or more guns of large calibre; the hulls to be built of iron or wood, as the Secretary may determine: Provided, That the aggregate tonnage of the whole number shall not exceed eight thousand tons, and that the cost of building the same shall not exceed three million two hundred thousand dollars: And provided, That four of said vessels shall be built, in whole or in part, in private yards, upon contract with the lowest responsible bidder therefor, upon public competition and proposals, due notice thereof being given by advertisement, upon models, specifications, and drawings furnished by the Navy Department, and under its direction and supervision, if, upon full examination and consideration, the same shall be deemed practicable by the Secretary of the Navy; or the hulls of any portion of said vessels may be built upon private contract in the Government yards upon like proposals, models, specifications, drawings, and supervision, and upon full examination and consideration, the Government in either case furnishing such materials as may be deemed practicable by the Secretary of the Navy.

Sec. 2. That neither of said vessels shall be commenced until full and complete models, specifications, and drawings shall be made for its construction in all its parts. And after such models and drawings are approved by the proper authority, they shall not be changed in any respect when the cost will exceed one hundred dollars, except upon the recommendation of a board of survey composed of not less than five officers of the Navy, and approved by the Secretary of the Navy; and if changes are thus made, the actual cost of and damage caused by such change shall be estimated

by such board of survey; and the terms of the contract shall provide that the contractors shall be bound by the estimate of said board as to the amount of increased or diminished compensation they are to receive, if any, in consequence of any such changes.

## NAVY GAZETTE.

## REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

## ORDERED.

FEBRUARY 20.—Commander George Dewey, to command the Narragansett, South Pacific Station, per steamer of March 1. Acting Assistant Surgeon Holmes Wikoff, to the receiving ship New Hampshire, at Norfolk, Va.

FEBRUARY 25.—Masters H. H. M. Richards and Herbert Winslow, to the Narragansett.

FEBRUARY 25.—Pay Inspector A. H. Gilman, to the Wabash, and as fleet paymaster of the European Station, on the 1st June next.

## DETACHED.

FEBRUARY 19.—Surgeon A. A. Hoehling, from the Juniata, and placed on sick leave. Sailmaker Samuel Tatem, from the Brooklyn, European Station, on the 9th ult., and placed on sick leave.

FEBRUARY 20.—Commander Richard W. Meade, from the command of the Narragansett, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to return to the United States.

Surgeon Thomas C. Walton, from the receiving ship New Hampshire, and ordered to the Juniata.

Assistant Surgeon H. C. Eckstein, from the Narragansett, on the reporting of his relief, and ordered to the United States.

Assistant Surgeon Edward Evans, from the Naval Hospital, New York, and ordered to the Narragansett, per steamer of March 1.

FEBRUARY 25.—Pay Inspector James Fulton, from the Wabash, and as fleet paymaster of the European Station, on the 1st June next.

## REVOKED.

FEBRUARY 20.—The orders of First assistant Engineer Wm. W. Heaton, to the Wasp, and placed on waiting orders.

## PLACED ON RETIRED LIST.

FEBRUARY 24.—Chaplain George W. Dorrance, from February 14, 1873.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Lieutenant Charles F. Arnold has reported his return from the Wachusett, having been tried by a court-martial and sentenced to be suspended from rank and duty for two years, to lose all pay for that time, and to retain his present number on the Navy Register during the term of suspension.

## LIST OF DEATHS.

In the Navy of the United States which have been reported to the Surgeon-General of the U. S. Navy and chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery for the week ending February 22, 1873:

James Rogers, corporal marines, U. S. receiving ship Sabine, at Portsmouth, N. H.

John P. Gillis, commodore, February 24, at Wilmington, Del.

## CHANGES IN THE MARINE CORPS.

The following are the changes in the officers of the Marine Corps since last memoranda, viz.:

Captain P. C. Pope, by direction of Navy Department, ordered to be detached from ship S. Mary's, and to report on board steamer Pensacola for duty as fleet marine officer, South Pacific fleet.

## NAVY NOMINATIONS TO THE SENATE.

Captain John M. B. Clitz, to be a commodore in the Navy, from December 28, 1872, vice Commodore B. N. Stempel, retired.

Commander Stephen B. Luce, to be a captain in the Navy, from December 28, 1872, vice Captain J. M. B. Clitz, nominated for promotion.

Lieutenant-Commander Theodore F. Kane, to be a commander in the Navy, from December 28, 1872, vice Commander S. B. Luce, nominated for promotion.

[This officer had been previously nominated, February 12, 1873, but without date of rank.]

Master Wm. J. Barnette, to be a lieutenant in the Navy, from December 28, 1872, vice Lieutenant-Commander T. F. Kane, nominated for promotion.

[This officer had been previously nominated, February 12, 1873, but without date of rank.]

Ensign Emory H. Taunt, to be a master in the Navy, from December 28, 1872, vice Master Wm. J. Barnette, nominated for promotion.

[This officer had been previously nominated, February 12, 1873, but without date of rank.]

Lieutenant-Commander Beatty P. Smith, to be a commander in the Navy, from February 11, 1873, vice Commander James W. Shirk, deceased.

Master Charles T. Forre, to be a lieutenant in the Navy, from February 11, 1873, vice Lieutenant-Commander B. P. Smith, nominated for promotion.

Ensign Daniel D. V. Stuart, to be a master in the Navy, from February 11, 1873, vice Master C. T. Forre, nominated for promotion.

Commodore Gustavus H. Scott, to be a rear-admiral in the Navy, from February 14, 1873, vice Rear-Admiral S. P. Lee, transferred to the retired list.

Captain Andrew Bryson, to be a commodore in the Navy, from February 14, 1873, vice Commodore G. H. Scott, nominated for promotion.

Commander John Lee Davis, to be a captain in the Navy, from February 14, 1873, vice Captain Andrew Bryson, nominated for promotion.

Lieutenant-Commander Cornelius M. Schoonmaker, to be a commander in the Navy, from February 14, 1873, vice Commander John L. Davis, nominated for promotion.

Master Boutelle Noyes, to be a lieutenant in the Navy, from February 14, 1873, vice Lieutenant-Commander C. M. Schoonmaker, nominated for promotion.

Ensign Dennis H. Mahan, to be a master in the Navy, from February 14, 1873, vice Master Boutelle Noyes, nominated for promotion.

Such of the foregoing officers as have not qualified for promotion, to be subject to examination.

In accordance with a special act of Congress, L. R. Chester, formerly an acting ensign in the Navy, has been nominated for appointment as Master on the retired list.

## THE TORPEDO QUESTION.

BELOW is a letter from Captain Ericsson to the Hon. Secretary of the Navy stating that two movable submarine torpedoes are now being constructed, to be ready for trial in the month of June next.

Hon. Geo. M. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy.

SIR: In accordance with the letter which I had the honor of addressing to you January 17, 1873, I now beg to report that I have commenced the construction of two movable submarine torpedoes. One of these, arranged especially for harbor defence, will be capable of running to any point six thousand feet distance and return, thus traversing a total distance of twelve thousand feet. The other movable submarine torpedo, a smaller one, will be arranged for the special purpose of being despatched from some small vessel, such as a monitor, toward the enemy's ships. This smaller torpedo will run a distance of about 2,500 feet and return, thus making the total distance traversed about 5,000 feet.

Aware of your desire to ascertain as soon as practicable

whether these torpedoes can be operated successfully, I have made arrangements for completing the same ready for trial in the month of June next.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

J. ERICSSON.

NEW YORK, February 24, 1873.

## RETIRED NAVAL OFFICERS.

The following are the letters from Admiral Porter and Commander Ammen in regard to retired officers of the Navy to which reference was made last week:

[Unofficial.]

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION, NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
WASHINGTON, February 7, 1873.

Hon. A. H. Cragin, United States Senate.

MY DEAR SIR: I trust a line from me in relation to making retired officers of the Navy ineligible for duty in time of peace will not bore you.

In this bureau I am made painfully aware of the persistence with which retired officers urge being put "on duty," and through their influential friends. I need hardly add that to a certain extent their efforts are successful, and that this fact makes many of them the more persistent and unreasonable in urging and importuning, on every possible pretext, being placed on duty because others were or had been on former occasions.

With the provision kindly, and I think justly, added by your committee, placing them on the same footing with retired Army officers, they should, and I think would, feel satisfied and grateful; nor would this provision entail any material expense on the Government, and possibly might in fact be the reverse.

As before stated, a certain number of them succeed in being put on duty, and many more may, in the event of having another Secretary of the Navy, thus making an increased instead of a decreased expense, as compared with what would be if the bill were passed forbidding employment of retired officers, and giving them an increased retired pay, or at least such of them as had been worthily retired.

I beg to present these facts for your kind consideration, and to assure you that the opinion expressed is shared by my colleagues, the chiefs of the different bureaus, and by other officers of rank generally. Very respectfully,

DANIEL AMMEN.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 5, 1873.

DEAR SIR: I beg that you will permit one who is personally not interested to give an opinion in relation to a matter affecting the efficiency of the Navy and the comfort of a certain class of officers.

I refer to the bill lately reported by the Naval Committee in regard to retired officers. If that bill is passed as it was reported by the committee it will be of more service to the Navy than any bill proposed for years.

D. D. PORTER, Admiral U. S. Navy.

## THE NAVAL BUREAU OF MEDICINE.

DURING the discussion in the Senate last week on the amendment which was offered to the Naval Appropriation bill, and rejected by the Senate, providing that the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery should not be retired before the expiration of his term, Mr. Bayard, in advocating the amendment, said that the head of the bureau being a man of science would be retired at the age of sixty-two, just when his faculties perhaps were best, pending the term of years to which he had been appointed. The intention of the amendment was that, although he may be retired from active service he may still fill out his term of service as the head of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Mr. Scott alluded to the occurrence of a year or so ago, to which his memory ran back, when the then Surgeon-General, Wood, arrived at sixty-two, and, by the operation of the law, went on the retired list. He had mental vigor and all the necessary qualifications for the station, but it was then insisted upon as the policy of the Navy Department not to permit any officer upon the retired list to remain at the head of that bureau. He should like to hear what had occurred since that time to change the policy of the Department. If it was a good policy then it should be now, unless the Department had seen its error.

Mr. Edmunds, in a vigorous speech, opposed the amendment, which proposed to set aside for the convenience of a particular individual a regular universal law which we have for retiring officers at a certain age. If the law was not a good one it should be repealed; if it is, it ought to be enforced. Both the Department and the gentleman at the head of the bureau, whom he had no doubt was a very excellent surgeon, knew when the detail was made that it would have to be subject to the controlling influence of the law. If they intended he should occupy it in spite of the law, they exercised a function which is a habit of some of the Departments of paying attention to a statute when it suits their convenience and forgetting it when it does not. This special legislation was extremely vicious, and this particular proposition had no merit in it at all.

Mr. Stockton quoted the law establishing the bureaus of the Department, which provided for the appointment to a civil office, the incumbent of which should hold office for four years. He knew it to be a fact that the Department was of opinion that the law forbidding retired officers to do active duty should not apply to the head of a bureau like this—a professional man, selected, as he generally is, from one of the oldest in the service. The Secretary could select any on the list, but usually took one near the head of the list, on the theory that a professional man does not know much until he has had some experience. The position of Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery was an exceedingly important one. It being desirable to select those advanced on the list, this law subjects the Department to constant changes. The law ought not to have been applied to professional men. The heads of these bureaus are advisers of the Secretary—his cabinet officers, so to speak;



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jor-General G. O. Meade, U. S. Army, Philadelphia; General Har-  
man Bache, U. S. Army, Philadelphia; Brigadier-General I. N.  
Palmer, U. S. Army, Omaha, Neb.; Brigadier-General L. P. Gra-  
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Conn. By the use of these arms the greatest possible effect with  
the least possible expense can be obtained.

THE House has passed a bill to deliver to the Society  
of the Army of the Cumberland eighty-eight pieces of  
condemned bronze cannon, for the erection of an eque-  
strian statue to Major-Gen. George H. Thomas; and a  
bill granting right of way over the military reservation  
at Fort Hamilton, N. Y., to the Bay Ridge and Sea Shore  
Railroad Company of Long Island.

THE Portsmouth Journal says: Work on the *Mo-*  
*nongahela*, at that place has been resumed, and she will  
now be fitted for sea with despatch.

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quested to do so.

THE Department of the Interior, in its instructions  
to the Peace Commissioners appointed to investi-  
gate and remove the causes of the difficulties with  
the Modoc Indians, declares that the objects to be at-  
tained by the Commission are these: First, To as-  
certain the causes which have led to hostilities; and  
secondly, to devise the most effective and judicious  
measures for preventing their continuance. It is  
the opinion of this department, from the best infor-  
mation in its possession, that it is advisable to re-  
move the Modoc Indians, with their consent, to  
some reservation, and it is believed that the coast  
reservation in Oregon, lying between Cape Look-  
out on the north and Cape Perpetua on the south,  
and bounded east by the coast range of mountains  
and on the west by the Pacific Ocean, will be found  
to furnish the best location for these Indians. The  
Commission will therefore endeavor to effect an  
amicable arrangement for locating these Indians on  
some portion of this reservation, if possible for it to  
do so, and provided that the Commission is not of  
opinion, after fully investigating the case, that some  
other place is better adapted to accomplish the pur-  
pose of the department, in either of which events  
the Commission will, before finally concluding an  
arrangement with the Indians, hold communication  
with the office and receive fuller advice. The Com-  
mission will in nowise attempt to direct the mili-  
tary authorities in reference to their movements. It  
will be at liberty, however, to inform the command-  
ing officer of the wish of the Department that no  
more force or violence be used than in his opinion  
shall be deemed absolutely necessary and proper, it  
being the desire of the Department in this, as well  
as in all other cases of like character, to conduct its  
communications with Indians in such a manner as  
to secure peace and obtain their confidence, if pos-  
sible, and their voluntary consent to a compliance  
with such regulations as may be deemed necessary  
for their present and future welfare.

The latest advices from the Commissioners are to  
the effect that they had sent two Indian women  
twice into the Modoc camp to arrange for an inter-  
view with the Indians, who they report to be in  
good humor, anxious for peace—or at least an influ-  
ential body of them—and desirous to have a talk.

A correspondent of the *Herald*, writing from Lost  
River Camp, February 12, says: "It is pleasant to  
find that for once the settlers are satisfied with the  
work of the regular troops, and it is safe to say that  
there is not one of the volunteers that took part in  
the fight of the 17th that will not speak enthusias-  
tically as to the cool bravery exhibited by the  
military. General FRANK WHEATON, although  
obliged to retire on that occasion through force of  
circumstances, cannot be blamed for the result, as  
the elements were against him in a perfectly strange  
country. No man had any idea of what lava beds  
were until that morning, and there are very few  
that were there then that want to go in again. Of  
course, as soldiers they will do their duty, and do it  
gallantly, but they all agree it was one of the hot-  
test places they ever struck."

We publish this week the report presented by the  
Military Committee of the House on the subject of  
staff organization, omitting only the synopsis of the

opinions of various officers on the subject which is  
embodied in it. Indeed the mass of testimony  
gathered by the committee last year is so great that  
we have preferred to leave them to grapple with it  
rather than to undertake the task ourselves, not  
having a national printing office under our control.  
Over three hundred pages of testimony in fine type  
follow the report; sufficient if we should undertake  
to print it, to occupy the pages of the JOURNAL for  
the next four months to the exclusion of everything  
else. And if we were to rashly spread it upon the  
record who knows to what embarrassment it might  
subject us in traversing our own wise conclusions on  
this perennial subject of Army discussion!

Sixty-three officers responded to the inquiries of  
the committee: Of these, fourteen belonged to the  
staff, eight to the engineers, as many to the infantry,  
seven each to the artillery and cavalry, five were  
general officers, not including the bureau chiefs,  
four were ex-officers, including the Secretary of War  
among this number, and one solitary representative  
of the Confederate service presented himself in the  
person of General LONGSTREET. For a synopsis of  
their opinions we refer to the report we publish  
elsewhere, and for the full testimony, to the printed  
document H. R. Report, No. 74, which forms a most  
valuable addition to military literature. Thanks  
to the zeal and thoroughness of the Military Com-  
mittee, under the chairmanship of General COBURN,  
we are not left entirely without contributions to  
this department of intellectual activity.

THE Senate considered the Army Appropriation  
bill on the afternoon and evening of Tuesday last,  
and made in it the following amendments: Reduc-  
ing the amount for purchase and manufacture of  
clothing from \$1,523,000 to \$800,000, and providing  
that no part of it shall be expended for any Army  
uniform of different pattern from that prescribed  
by the Army regulations during the late war, until  
the supply now on hand shall be exhausted. Reduc-  
ing the amount for national cemeteries from \$75,000  
to \$50,000. Giving the Chief Medical Purveyor of  
the Army supervision of the purchase and distribu-  
tion of all hospital and medical supplies. Appro-  
priating \$5,000 for experiments with Gatling guns,  
and \$100,000 for experiments in improving the cast-  
iron guns now in the service by lining them with  
steel. Reducing the amount for the payment of the  
Army \$285,000. Reducing the amount for subsist-  
ence \$270,944; for Quartermaster's Department,  
\$25,000; for purchase of horses, \$50,000; transpor-  
tation, \$800,000—this last reduction being in anti-  
cipation of the Pacific railroad being no longer  
paid half in cash if Congress enact the pending pro-  
position to that effect. \$200,000 was appropriated  
for establishing two new military posts on the line  
of the Northern Pacific railroad; and \$1,000,000  
for headstones in the national cemeteries. Mr. AMES  
made an unsuccessful attempt to secure an amend-  
ment providing that hereafter all regimental and  
company organizations, and all other branches of  
the military service, shall be open to colored men,  
without restriction of any kind, and directing the  
Secretary of War to obliterate, at as early a day as  
possible, all distinctions now existing between or-  
ganizations in the Army on account of race or color;  
also providing that the number of colored men en-  
listed in the Army shall at no time be less than the  
number now allowed by law to two regiments of  
cavalry and two of infantry.

WE are glad to see, from the letter of Captain  
ERICSSON to the Secretary of the Navy, which we  
publish elsewhere, that the distinguished inventor  
of the Monitor has already begun the building of  
two submarine torpedoes; one arranged especially  
for harbor defence, and the other, a smaller one, de-  
signed to be despatched from a vessel against an  
enemy's ships. His letter also leaves us to infer  
that he offers these torpedoes, which will be ready  
in June next, for trial by the Navy Department.  
We are glad that Captain ERICSSON has reached  
this conclusion, and feel sure his inven-  
tion will have a fair test. The fact that the  
Senate, by particular amendment, took pains to  
provide for such a test, seemed to us last week an in-  
ducement for Captain ERICSSON to offer his torpedo  
for official trial. The further fact that the House  
has since stricken out the appropriation for the pur-



chase of a torpedo, does not to affect his purpose, inasmuch as he has not offered his torpedo for sale or sought to arouse the liberality of the Government, but merely to, if possible, vindicate his idea. If Mr. LAY and Captain ERICSSON can come to terms as to their proposed competitive test, we shall acquire an amount of certain information in regard to torpedoes of which we just now stand in great need. But if that private trial fails, we yet have before us the prospect of a fair and conclusive test of Captain ERICSSON's invention by a naval board, for we feel sure that the Secretary of the Navy will gladly and promptly avail himself of the opportunity to determine the merits of so interesting an engine of marine warfare. That actual test will determine more than volumes of books and countless columns of newspapers can argue.

It is our duty to this week announce the death, at his residence in Stamford, Conn., of Colonel and Brevet Major-General DAVID H. VINTON, on the retired list of the Army. His disease was pneumonia, and its fatal termination on the 21st was quite unexpected. We shall not here and now undertake to recite the record and estimate the services, of so long duration and of so varied and important character, of the deceased officer; we trust that General CULLUM, to whom our readers are indebted for several admirable biographical sketches of the prominent deceased graduates of the Military Academy, will perform for us that pious task. General VINTON died at the ripe age of seventy, and after a career in the Army of over half a century. His long service in the Quartermaster's Department, wherein he always and conspicuously evinced the highest characteristics of a spotless soldier and gentleman, is well known to all military readers. It was only a few months since that we had to record the death of his brother, the late Rev. Dr. FRANCIS VINTON; and an elder brother, Major VINTON, was killed during the siege of Vera Cruz.

It will gratify some of our readers to learn that a claim agent, one JEROME B. CONKLIN, has recently been brought to judgment in the United States Circuit Court, Southern District of Ohio, for retaining a greater compensation for his services as claim agent than was allowed by law. He obtained a father's pension for an old man named PORTER amounting, with the back pay, to some six hundred and sixty dollars, for which he charged the modest commission of fifty per cent. or three hundred and thirty dollars. As the enterprising CONKLIN had to pay out of this amount a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars and costs of prosecution, he evidently has not found this particular transaction as profitable as it promised to be.

THE House had under consideration, on the 24th inst., the amendments made by the Senate to the Naval Appropriation bill. The amendment giving the retired officers seventy-five per cent. of their sea pay was concurred in. The text of this amendment is as follows:

*Provided*, That no officer on the retired list of the Navy shall be employed on active duty except in time of war: *And provided*, That those officers on the retired list, and those hereafter retire, who were, or who may be, retired after forty years' service, or on attaining the age of sixty-two years, in conformity with section one of the act of December, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and its amendments, dated June twenty-fifth, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, or those who were or may be retired from incapacity resulting from long and faithful service, from wounds or injuries received in the line of duty, from sickness or exposure therein, shall, after the passage of this act, be entitled to seventy-five per centum of the present sea-pay of the grade or rank which they held at the time of their retirement. The rear-admirals provided for in the act of June fifth, eighteen hundred and seventy-two, shall be considered as having been retired as rear-admirals.

The following amendments were also concurred in:

For contingent expenses, sixty-four thousand dollars. That from and after the thirtieth day of June, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, the term of the classes in the Naval Academy at Annapolis, shall be six years, instead of four, as now provided by law, and this provision shall first apply to the class entering the academy in the year eighteen hundred and seventy-three, and to all subsequent classes.

Hereafter the course of instruction for cadet-engineers shall include two years of service in naval sea-steamer in addition to the period at the Naval Academy now provided by law: *Provided*, That engineer officers graduated at the Naval Academy shall take precedence with all other officers with whom they have relative rank, according to the actual length of service in the Navy. Chief engineers having the same rank as medical and pay directors and inspectors shall, when at sea, have the same pay; that naval officers subject to examination before promotion to a grade limited in number by law shall not be entitled to examination in such a sense as to give increase of pay until designated by the Secretary of the Navy to fill vacancies in the higher grade; and officers eligible for promotion to a grade not limited in number shall not be entitled to examination until ordered to present themselves for examination or until a class in which they are included, has been so ordered by the Secretary of the Navy.

The amendment appropriating \$3,200,000 for

eight steam-sloops, that for gas works at Norfolk yard, and that the retiring acts shall not be construed to retire officers hereafter, before they are sixty-two years of age, were concurred in; also that allowing the Supreme Court to award appeals in prize cases and the amendment for mustering and time clerk at the several yards. The amendment regarding the examination of persons to be appointed professors of mathematics was non-concurred in, also that appropriating \$150,000 for a torpedo-boat.

Conference committees were appointed on the disagreeing votes, viz.: Senate—COLE, CRAGIN, STEVENSON. House—HALL, ARCHER, SCHOFIELD.

WITH the consciousness that we are arguing ourselves out of a homestead with others, we must yet urge that Congress will yield to the logic of the report made by Mr. STEWART from the Senate Committee on Public Land adverse to the bill passed by the House of Representatives on the 12th of December last, commonly known as the Soldiers' Bounty Land bill. We are satisfied that such a bill will be of little practical value to those for whose benefit it is professedly intended, and that it will only put money into the pockets of a lot of land speculators of whom we have had a representative specimen in a philanthropic individual who called upon us frequently last year and occupied us with the story of his patriotic and disinterested labors in behalf of soldiers in lobbying for this bill. The report of the Senate Committee says:

This bill, if enacted into a law, would provide for the disposition of at least 39,000,000 acres of selected land. The whole area of public domain, exclusive of Alaska, is less than 1,000,000,000 acres, from which must be deducted as valueless or unsuitable for settlement, or reserved by law for other purposes, an amount variously estimated at from two-thirds to three-fourths of the whole amount of public domain, or from 666,000,000 to 750,000,000 of acres. This would leave from 250,000,000 to 334,000,000 acres of public lands yet to be occupied by settlers. The highest and probably a very exaggerated estimate of the amount of such lands is 400,000,000 acres. If the 370,000,000 acres required to satisfy the terms of the bill under consideration could be found, exclusive of the necessary deductions above noted, all reasonable expectation would be answered. Upon this statement of facts the question is squarely presented, Shall all the legislation of Congress for homestead and pre-emption settlements be, in effect, repealed on account of the very uncertain benefit that the proposed law might confer on the soldiers and sailors?

The legislation of last session removed every obstruction which the homestead laws were supposed to throw in the way of the easy acquisition of 160 acres of public land for a home by each soldier and sailor, provided for in this bill, exacting only a short residence on the land to protect both Government and settler against the speculator. At the rate of the annual survey of the public lands, which has hitherto satisfied all demands for settlement, forty years would be required to issue the patents called for by this bill. The benefits designed to be conferred would therefore be postponed for the great mass of soldiers the whole term of their natural lives. The number of warrants thrown upon the market by laws giving land bounties to the soldiers of the Mexican war reduced the price at the time to less than 40 cents per acre. The immense number of warrants that would be thrown upon the market under this bill would necessarily reduce prices to almost nothing, and the public domain would be transferred to speculators with whom every pioneer, whether native-born or emigrant, would be compelled to negotiate for a home. The report concludes as follows: "The money that the Government must expend to carry out any scheme for the immediate disposal of the public lands would without doubt be as much as it would receive as the result of such a forced sale. Would it not be far better that the Government should give this amount of money and a great deal more directly to the soldiers and sailors, and retain the lands for settlement under existing laws? The Committee do not underrate the great service of the soldiers and sailors of the war of the rebellion in preserving our free institutions, but the aid hereafter to be granted to them should be extended in such a manner under the law, so guarded, that the benefit derived by them should equal the full value and cost to the Government of whatever it gives, without destroying its homestead and pre-emption policy for the disposition of the public lands for actual settlement.

As communications are frequently received at the headquarters of the Army from colleges throughout the country, asking that officers be detailed as professors of military art and science, we would suggest to retired officers who may desire to be so detailed that they send their applications to General SHERMAN.

THE Senate has passed bills of the House of the following titles with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is required; a bill (H. R. No. 3,737) making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874; a bill (H. R. No. 2,873) authorizing the President to permit Frank M. Ashton, late second assistant engineer of the United States, to withdraw his resignation of that office; a bill (H. R. No. 1,130) to provide for the purchase by the Secretary of War of lands for the United States, in the State of Texas, for the sites of forts and military posts; a bill (H. R. No. 3,721) for the relief of the widow of Alexander F. Crossman, deceased, late commander U. S. Navy; a bill (S. No. 1,526) for the relief of William W. Low, now a captain on the active list in the U. S. Navy.

The following bills were reported upon favorably by the Military Committee of the House of Representatives and passed, (H. R. No. 4,021) relating to brevet appointments, providing that section 16 of an act entitled "An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the year ending June 30, 1871," approved July 15,

1870, be, and the same is hereby, amended so as to read as follows:

That hereafter no officer shall be entitled to wear while on duty any uniform, other than that of his actual rank on account of having been breveted, except as prescribed by the Army regulations, and no brevet commission shall hereafter be granted except for gallant and meritorious conduct in the field in time of war, or for faithful service of not less than thirty years' duration. H. R. No. 3,452 to provide for the better care and protection of subsistence supplies. It authorizes and empowers the Secretary of War to select from the sergeants of the line of the Army who shall have faithfully served therein five years, three years of which in the grade of non-commissioned officer, as many commissary sergeants as the service may require, not to exceed one for each military post or place of deposit of subsistence supplies, whose duty it shall be to receive and preserve the subsistence supplies at the posts, under the direction of the proper officers of the Subsistence Department, and under such regulations as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of War. The commissary sergeants hereby authorized shall be subject to the rules and articles of war, and shall receive for their services the same pay and allowances as ordnance sergeants. This bill had previously passed the Senate.

The Military Committee of the House has reported adversely on the following bills: "Act to provide for furnishing artificial limbs to disabled soldiers;" H. R. No. 3,999, to amend an act entitled "An act making appropriation for the support of the Army for the year ending June 30, 1870," approved March 3, 1869, which authorizes and permits the President to nominate one assistant adjutant-general with the rank, pay, and emoluments of a major in the said Department; a bill (H. R. No. 2,664) to amend an act entitled "An act for the better organization of the military establishment," approved August 3, 1861. H. R. No. 4,024, for the relief of States and Territories for the issue of arms and ordnance stores made by them for the maintenance and preservation of the Union. It provides for crediting the States with the sums charged them for arms and ordnance stores which they shall return, or satisfactorily account for as disposed of in the public service during the Rebellion. H. R. No. 3,434 to provide for the establishment of a large arsenal of construction and repair, a powder depot and a proving ground, at suitable points east of the Alleghany mountains, and for the discontinuance and disposal of some of the smaller arsenals, with an amendment as follows.

At the end of the bill add the following:

And no site for a new arsenal shall be purchased until all arsenals not required for Government purposes shall have been sold.

The Naval Committee of the Senate on the 25th inst. reported adversely on quite a number of bills and petitions, and asked to be discharged from their further consideration. The following were so disposed of: Giving outfit and yearly allowances of clothing to petty officers, seamen, etc., in the Navy; for relief of Rear-Admiral Walke; to restore Commander Arnold to active list; for relief of Commodore W. B. Whitney, and of Captain Egbert Thompson; petition of Assistant Surgeon E. H. Van Wyck, for increase of pay; petition of officers stationed at yards, that their pay be settled and defined satisfactorily; petition of officers for increase of pay while on shore duty; petition of officers at Mare Island, for equalization of pay; petition of Commodore J. M. Watson; petition of Captain A. Gibson; memorial of Commodore Bissel; memorials of certain midshipmen, regarding promotions in class of 1870; memorial of Commander R. L. Law, to be restored to original position; memorial of officers asking certain provision regarding funeral expenses.

COMMODORE JOHN P. GILLIS, stationed at the Naval Asylum, Philadelphia, died on February 24, at Wilmington, Delaware, in which State he was born. He was appointed in the Navy from Illinois on December 12, 1825, served in the Pacific squadron 1827-29, and was promoted to Passed Midshipman January 4, 1831; commissioned as Lieutenant February 9, 1837; and was on the sloop *Lexington*, Pacific squadron, 1840; frigate *Congress*, Mediterranean squadron, 1843; and on duty at the Pensacola Navy-yard 1845; served in the Pacific squadron 1846; on Coast Survey duty 1847; and on the sloop *Plymouth*, East India squadron 1854-54, commissioned as commander September 14, 1835; commanded Philadelphia rendezvous 1859-60; and the steamer *Monticello* 1861; commissioned as Captain July 16, 1862; and commanded steam sloop *Ossipee*, Western Gulf squadron, 1863-64; on duty at the Navy-yard, Philadelphia, 1865; and also placed on the retired list in that year, and commissioned as Commodore 1866.

THE *Kansas*, from Greytown, and *Canandaigua*, from Carthage, arrived at Aspinwall February 24.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

## INTELLECTUAL INACTIVITY OF THE ARMY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: The recent discussion in regard to the "Intellectual Inactivity of the Army," found in your late issues, has, I think, received general attention, and the last article by "Sadowa," I believe, only elicits surprise and regret. It contains its own best and a veriest criticism, viz.: "It is fair to presume that if any insinuations against the honor, integrity, and intelligence of the officers of the Army, high or low, are ever made, they emanate from a vicious and badly-formed mind." I should hardly dare to express myself so forcibly, hardly venture a criticism so damaging. Perhaps, however, I mistake the spirit of the article, as well as the actual expression contained therein; and that the charges made against the "officers of the line" (and this nice distinction is carefully maintained throughout) of gross dissipation and complete want of their lives; in fact of all the crimes that fall to the idle, is not an "insinuation" against "their honor, integrity, or intelligence." I agree perfectly with "Sadowa" in this one respect, but it seems to me it is to openly and boldly charge the officers of the Regular Army with all the vices, neglects, and crimes that follow so closely in the footsteps of an entire disregard of the three virtues specified. When we were maligned and misrepresented by "E," and our General came nobly forward, defeated, and set us right before the world, our nerves thrilled with enthusiasm for him, who, elevated by the power of his own great genius and noble deeds performed, had not had his heart chilled by the attitude; had not left behind him his kind, generous, and manly sympathy for those who still struggled as "subalterns."

Again, at Delmonico's, when all the world must have looked ros-colored to him, feasted, wine, toasted, and honored, he did not forget us, and in his own peculiar, warm-hearted, terse and elegant style, he tried to keep the memory of and the obligation of the country to us fresh and green in its mind.

General Sherman by the light of an experience obtained by a close personal observation of nearly all the armies of the world, pronounced us as worthy of our positions, and well qualified to fill them with honor and credit to ourselves and friends.

"Sadowa" remarks upon this judgment and opinion that "the General has no good chance for observation—that when he visits us, we are in a fictitious and false position resulting from special forethought and preparation."

I acknowledge that it is our great "pleasure and honor" to extend to General Sherman all the courtesies to which his high position and glorious record entitle him; that our flags float from their highest standards, and that our cannon loudly proclaim our "welcome," and that we gladly decorate ourselves with all the feathers, plumes, gold cord, gilt buttons, and blue coats, that our "Regulation" admits of; but does "Sadowa" imagine that an agreeable deportment, a refinement of manner, an intelligent, high order of conversation can be easily assumed, or can be imitated? Would not the "idle, dissipated reader of the second-class novel" be detected and discovered at once? If it is possible for such a mask to be donned at pleasure, then the early education of some of us was a farce and an error; and we have blundered along in the darkness of our own stupidity and ignorance, feeling that it was necessary to possess a chivalrous spirit, a delicate sensibility, a fund of useful knowledge, a feeling of reverence for the good and great; in a few words, to possess the virtues that make the high aims supposed to be identified with the life of a gentleman, in the best sense of the word, attainable, not knowing that all this could be assumed at pleasure, and that to appear as a gentleman one only had to wear the dress.

Does "Sadowa" really believe that "officers of the line pass day after day in hopeless vacuity of thought," and does he imagine that on this account he can make such harsh statements, and can promulgate such unjust views in regard to them; can defame their ability, and detract from their intellectual standing, without arousing a feeling of indignation? Permit me for one to put my dissent on record and to avoid an argument that cannot be conclusive. I assert that the kinds of mental and physical employments of the officers in any one of the large geographical departments do not warrant in the slightest this morbid twaddle, which is so common of late in regard to "intellectual inactivity," "vacuity of thought," etc., as applied to them. My experience in the Army has not been, comparatively speaking, of long duration, but it has been on the frontier, where in all probability will be found a large proportion of the officers whose "habits and daily employments" are so skillfully misrepresented "to the quick eye of their military head."

It is astonishing to note at the various posts, and it has been my good fortune to visit a large number of them, and as much unnoticed as lieutenants generally are, the desperate means adopted by officers of the garisons to indulge in a little "vacuity of thought" and "intellectual inactivity." In the matter of books for instance, one observes, in almost any of the quarters one may happen to visit, those that give the most perspicuous and detailed information in regard to what has been taking place in the world since there has been a chronological record; in history from the narrative of Josephus to the latest phase of the Froude and Burke controversy; in poetry, from Homer to Matthew Arnold; in metaphysics and physics, from Plato and Aristotle to Herbert Spencer and Huxley. In short, books read by those who, while neither "understanding the value of excellence in professional attainments nor the application necessary

to produce that excellence," are capable of appreciating the highest thoughts and actions of men since the world began. As to the professional ability, if General Sherman's opportunities do not give him authority on that point, in its comparative aspect at least, it can certainly not be settled by discussion. No one seriously believes, looking at it from a point of view that more nearly concerns us, that any duty likely to devolve upon our Army will be unfulfilled on account of the incompetency of its officers, and this is perfectly consistent with the fact that a rigid and severe study of the science of war at present would be in a measure gratuitous, such study must be in our Army mainly theoretical, and even under this disadvantage it is no doubt in advance of the prospect of any contingency that may require its practical application.

As regards this discussion, I will endeavor to give a pen picture of my own post. It is nearly midway between the two oceans, up amid the desolations with scarcely any of the grandeur of the Rocky Mountains, in many respects as isolated and unattractive as any, and can therefore be taken as representative of our entire frontier.

There is scarcely an officer here who does not read and study books of a high order of merit. I have visited all the quarters and have found, not the "sensational novel or book of loose morals," as "Sadowa" would have us believe, but such works as those of Gibbon, Hume, Blackstone, Shakespeare, Milton, Swift, Pope, Byron, Goethe, Wordsworth, Tennyson, Thackeray, Dickens, and a host of others, all well worn by constant study and reading. Of the post duty it will be sufficient to say that whatever can come under that head is invariably well done, and in the intervals of spare time, in addition to general reading, some of the officers are perfecting themselves in French, others in telegraphy, and another indulging in all the mysteries of microscopic science, aided by a superior instrument and specimens of the animal and vegetable kingdoms prepared and mounted by himself.

I am not coloring the picture too highly, but have tried to state simple facts as plainly as possible. I, too, heartily desire to look upon this question fairly and without prejudice, and it seems to me one of two conclusions is unavoidable, either "Sadowa" has had his judgment warped and his kindly feelings vitiated by some special case (perhaps his own), or he has been weak enough to adopt the views of those who though they may be eminent in their own special callings, have, thoughtlessly no doubt, given utterance to opinions concerning a subject of which they know nothing.

FRONTIER.

## THE MODOC COUNTRY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: I have just come across the enclosed copy of an official report of an expedition through and beyond the Modoc country, where war is now flagrant, and, as it may interest your readers, you are at liberty to publish so much of it as you deem judicious. The expedition was in 1855. Yours truly,

H. G. GIBSON,

Bvt. Brigadier-Gen. and Major Third Artillery.  
HEADQUARTERS FORT WADSWORTH, Feb. 20, 1873.

FORT LANE, OREGON TERR., Nov. 23, 1855.

MAJOR: Having already advised you of the fact of my arrival at this post with a part of the escort of Lieutenant R. S. Williamson, Topographical Engineers, upon his recent survey and exploration, I beg leave to submit the following report in relation to the expedition, but having no connection with its objects or results as determined by Lieutenant Williamson:

The detachments of the Third Artillery (acting as infantry) and the Fourth Infantry, left Fort Reading, under the command of Lieutenant George Crook, Fourth Infantry, on the 26th of July, with the pack train. I was detained at that post by severe indisposition until the 28th, when I started with the dragoon detachment, accompanied by Lieutenant J. B. Hood, Fourth Infantry, and Lieutenant Williamson's party. On the 29th we overtook Lieutenant Crook; encamped at Macomber's flats, on Battle creek, about thirty miles from Fort Reading. From this point our march was continuous and uninterrupted, save by such delays as became necessary to recruit our animals, to bring up the stragglers or sick of the command, and to enable Lieutenant Williamson to make reconnaissances of the country. Our route from Fort Reading to Canoe creek lay across the western spur of the Sierra Nevada, under Lassen's butte, and a portion of it, together with that along Canoe creek, through valleys and table lands filled with confused masses of lava or pedregal, and thickly overgrown with manginita and artemisia bushes. From its mouth to that of Fall river we passed through a mountainous country, characterized by same pedregal formation, and the soil producing the same kind of bushes, with here and there a scattered growth of pines. Crossing Pitt river, below and near the cañon above Fall river, and ascending a precipitous bluff, we saw but little difference in the features of the country. Above the cañon we passed into a broad bottom producing a fine growth of grass, but abounding in pools of stagnant water, and through which the river flowed with a sluggish current. Except while following an emigrant trail, the soft and porous soil of the valley, some twenty-five miles in length, made our march a painful and fatiguing one to our overpacked animals and foot soldiers. Leaving Pitt river at the point where it began to flow to the southward, we passed over an easy, though hilly road, and through a very picturesque country, and encamped in a beautiful little valley, watered by a fine little stream, about ten miles to the north of the river. From this encampment we struck due north to Wright lake, and thence to Rhett lake and Lost river, the country presenting no attractive features, being mostly a barren waste, and destitute of water or healthy vegetation.

Along Lost river there were some few patches of fine grass, but for the greater part of the distance we travelled up it no vegetation was to be seen, except the arti-

misia or wild sage. Having crossed Lost river at the natural bridge, and ascending it to the head of its southern bend, we struck across to Klamath lake, and, following its shores along the base of the hills, we came upon the Klamath river. Ascending the river, after an easy day's march we reached the lower extremity of the great Klamath marsh. We found in our course around the marsh several rancherias of Indians, all of which were deserted by the inhabitants on our approach. Quite a number of them, however, came into our camp in the evening, and the next day rendered us a great deal of assistance in crossing the river, guiding us to the ford, and furnishing canoes to convey our packs. We marched twelve miles over marshy ground to a small stream, a tributary of the Klamath, and encamped, proceeding the succeeding day on our course toward the Des Chutes river. Wherever during our march our route led us through forests, we found the ground thickly strewn with fallen timber, frequently compelling us to double the distance between the points of our route, and everywhere having to make our own road, and but rarely finding hard ground to travel over. We reached the Des Chutes river on the 26th of August, and about twenty-five miles from this point established a permanent camp, and Lieutenant Williamson proceeded, with Lieutenant Sheridan and the dragoon detachment, to explore for a pass through the Cascade Range into the Willamette valley. We joined him again on the 2d September, and, having established a depot camp in the vicinity of Snow creek, a tributary of the Des Chutes river, in the Cascade Mountains, about 120 miles south of the Dalles of the Columbia, Lieutenant Williamson started up on another exploration, and, leaving Lieutenant Crook in charge of the camp, I proceeded, with Lieutenant Abbott and the pack train, to Fort Dalles to procure additional supplies for the expedition. The character of the country between Klamath marsh and the Dalles is so well described by Colonel Fremont in his report of his exploration of 1844 that I deem any further description in this report unnecessary. We returned to our camp from Fort Dalles on the 23d of September, and, Lieutenant Williamson having dispensed with the services of the artillery and infantry detachments in the further prosecution of his survey, I commenced on the 24th the return march to Fort Lane. Crossing the summit of the range in the vicinity of our camp, and passing in our route a series of beautiful lakes, with fine grass on their borders, shut in by magnificent pine forests, we pursued a small stream, which proved to be the main branch of the Des Chutes river, and, diverging from it after a few hours' travel, reached the southern tributary of the Des Chutes about ten miles above our first permanent camp. Here we came into the emigrant road leading into the Willamette valley, and, following up the southern branch of the river to its source, we crossed the summit of the Cascade Range, and on the 1st of October struck the head waters of the main fall of the Willamette river. Our road led for sixty miles through a dense pine forest, with here and there open spaces, in which we found fine grazing for our animals, and crossed the river some thirty miles before entering the valley. Between our depot camp and the emigrant road we found the ground thickly covered with fallen timber, and in many places very boggy. The road, opened by the emigration of 1853, enters the Willamette valley, and strikes the principal California trail near Eugene City. Proceeding up the valley, we crossed the Callapa Mountains, and halted at Winchester, on the South Umpqua river to recruit our animals. Hearing there of the outrages committed by the Indians in Rogue River valley, I proceeded at once, notwithstanding the exhausted condition of my animals, and, though many of my men were quite foot-sore, by rapid marches to Fort Lane, and reported on the 17th of October to the commanding officer of the post. The subsequent movements of the command are already known to the commanding general, and it is therefore unnecessary to state them here.

I am informed that it is in contemplation to establish a new post in the vicinity of Pitt river, and, after carefully observing the country, I beg leave to suggest two locations which I think would answer the purpose of over-awing the Indians living upon that river, whose well-known bad character and unfriendly disposition have not been exaggerated, judging from the bold and almost impudent behavior of the few who visited our camps. The first location I would recommend is to be found in the vicinity of the mouth of Canoe creek. There is an abundance of timber for building and other purposes, fine meadows of grass, and sufficient arable land for gardens. There is an elevated plateau back from the river, extensive enough to afford a healthy site for the post above the malaria, if any there be, arising from it. Above the junction a few miles the creek has a descent of over 250 feet in half a mile, forming a succession of beautiful cascades, and between them and the river a good location can undoubtedly be found. The distance to Fort Reading is about eighty miles, and from the point where the emigrant road leading under Lassen's butte crosses Canoe creek a good wagon road could be easily constructed.

The second point I would suggest is on the Oregon trail, about ten miles due north of the southern bend of Pitt river. There is a fine stream of water running through a pretty little valley surrounded by a forest of excellent pine timbers, and affording fine grazing for animals. A post located here would be sufficiently near Pitt river to keep the Indians in check, and has also the advantage of being within reaching distance of the Indian rancherias on and near Rhett lake. It is almost 175 miles from Fort Reading by our travelled route; but there is, no doubt, a much shorter one, and I am confident would prove to be the healthiest location for a post in the neighborhood of Pitt river.

Before closing this report I deem it my duty to mention the fact that the escort was at the outpost provided with an insufficient number of pack animals to transport the necessary supplies of the command, and that in consequence it became necessary upon leaving Fort Reading to pack them as heavily as 300 pounds each, and even



hen, although a portion of the command was still behind, animals had to be sent back to Fort Reading from Macomber's flat to bring up stores left for want of transportation. It was not until the command had reached the Des Chutes river that our packs became reduced to an average of 200 pounds each—50 pounds more than they should have started with, considering the nature of the country to be travelled over and the object of the expedition. As a consequence, much delay was occasioned by necessary stoppages to recuperate the animals, while many have been seriously injured, and quite a number have been or will eventually be lost to the Government.

Our progress was also greatly retarded by the foot troops, many of whom were at times suffering from chills and fever and diarrhoea, and very frequently my rear-guard was compelled to encamp with the sick at night without water, and a scarcity of provisions. Pack animals, already overtaxed, had often to be sent back to bring the sick into camp, rarely reaching it until long after nightfall. Owing to the overweight of the packs, I was unable to provide even the sick with animals to ride when a long march became necessary.

I have the honor to be, Major, very respectfully your obedient servant.  
H. G. GIBSON,  
First Lieutenant Third Artillery, commanding escort  
to Lieutenant Williamson's Surveying Expedition.

#### "CLOTHE THE NAKED."

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Can you inform me through the columns of your paper, of the reason why the troops (Batteries M and H, Third Artillery) constituting the garrison of David's Island, New York Harbor, are kept so long without clothing?

Transferred from the South to the North in November last, they feel keenly the change of climate, and no opportunity is given them, on part of the Government, of protecting themselves in part from the piercing cold of the winter.

If this is the case when the United States is at peace, no expectations can be made if at war, be it foreign or domestic.

We arrived here in November last; clothing was required, but the requisitions have as yet remained unfilled; and why so?

Is it not pleasant for United States soldiers to rest on the soft side of a plank during the night (beds sufficient for all not being on hand), covered with a light blanket, the quarters a mere shell? or to walk without shoes and under clothing during the night his lone tour on post? Put yourself in my place and see if my complaint is not fair and just.

It is said that soldiers are never satisfied. Well, at times this may be true, but too often just cause is given for complaint, and then it is made in vain.

It would perhaps not be generous, however, for me to close this without saying that every effort on part of the officers of the post has been made to procure clothing, but to this day in vain.

THIRD ARTILLERY.

DAVID'S ISLAND, N. Y. HARBOR, Feb. 19, 1873.

#### THE ENLISTMENT OF SEAMEN.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: I desire to call attention through your columns to a practice very much in vogue in the Navy, and one which, it seems to me, tends as much as any other to lessen the numbers of native-born "man-of-war-men" in our naval service.

I allude to the practice almost universally resorted to in order to fill up the complements of our vessels on foreign stations, that of shipping the first able-bodied foreigner who presents himself, providing he can articulate "yes" and "no," and has once sniffed the salt sea air, if only from the deck of a Dutch "pynk" or a Spanish "xebec."

There is no denying the fact that in a great many cases men have been shipped as landmen, and even as ordinary seamen, on board of our vessels, who could scarcely speak a single intelligible word of English, and could no more tell what the main sheet was than the veriest "haymaker" from the interior, and as for "passing an earling," that is a "sublimity of knowledge" that not one in one hundred of these foreign acquisitions can lay claim to.

It is, to say the least, very embarrassing for an "officer of the fore-castle," in thick or foggy weather, or at night, when a sail or light is reported, and the "officer of the deck" is in a flurry for fear of a second *Onetida* disaster, to have the lookout on the topsail yard or at the cathead, reply to his demand of "Where away" by extending all of his fingers, and each in a different direction, and singing out "Offer dair shep on der bow," and is far from conducive to a strict observance of the Article of War regarding profanity.

It may be answered that these exceptional men need not be placed in such responsible positions; but to do otherwise is to throw a great deal of extremely unpleasant duty on the intelligent, English-speaking portion of the crew, and to render our service extremely unpleasant and unpopular with just the class we are particularly anxious to retain in it.

Again, it may be urged that these men will learn; but it must be remembered that they are not American citizens; that most or all of them are shipped "for the cruise," and will receive their discharges before their ship returns to the States, and hence in all probability they never will be American citizens; and I think it will scarcely be considered an advantage to our Navy to educate seamen for the navies of Europe, our natural enemies in time of war.

It is, to say the least, I should think, somewhat injudicious, whatever may be said of the benevolent character of the enterprise, and is far from the end contemplated by our legislators, and the people at large.

Not the least objectionable feature of the custom is the necessity thereby incurred of turning away the by no means insignificant number of American seamen who

now and again offer to ship on board of our vessels when they meet them in foreign commercial ports. It has occurred quite often in my own very limited experience that American seamen of from eight to twenty years' experience, some of whom had already served in the Navy, were very reluctantly turned away by the executive officer, with the remark, "We have our complement," simply because the places that should have been theirs were filled by the riff raff of various foreign seaports.

Until legislation or a general order on this subject abolishes the now too prevalent practice mentioned I fear we need hope for very little improvement in the lower ranks of the service, despite the laws to render the Navy popular.

Let us hear some suggestions from our seniors on this subject.  
NARROW STRIPE.

#### NAUTICAL SCHOOLS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: We are much pleased to learn that the Chamber of Commerce of the city of New York has petitioned the State Legislature to establish a State Naval School. This is a good move, and well worthy of success. Such an institution once established on a broad and solid basis, there is little doubt but that Congress would extend to it the same liberal aid, should such ever be needed, that is always so generously bestowed in this country for educational purposes. There is a general and perhaps well-founded objection to the employment of public moneys for technical education. It is one of the highest obligations of the Republic to prepare its youth for the duties of citizenship; but it is said not to be incumbent to provide instruction in special branches. A very proper exception to this rule is found in the Military and Naval Academies, the establishment of which was a duty imposed on Congress by the Constitution, under the general requirement "to provide for the common defence," and "to raise, maintain, and govern armies and a navy."

But Congress in its wisdom has seen proper to make other exceptions. The act of July, 1862, devoted the proceeds of the sales of 30,000 acres of public lands to each Senator and Representative to constitute a perpetual fund for the "endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college (in each State accepting the terms of the act), where the leading object shall be to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanical arts, including military tactics, . . . in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life." It seems from this that Congress has abundantly provided for education in the departments of agriculture, in the mechanical arts, and in military science. If this is not legislating for instruction in special branches it is only because the terms of the law are so general as to include nearly all classes. Why, then, we ask, are commerce and naval science excluded? At first glance it would seem that a distinction is made unfavorable to our naval element. This is still more apparent from the act of July 23, 1866, where, in section 26, the President is authorized, on the application of an established college within the United States, "to detail an officer of the Army to act as president, superintendent, or professor of such college, for the purpose of promoting knowledge of military science among the young men of the United States." This is perfectly proper, we admit, and clearly comes under the authority of the Constitution "to organize, arm, and discipline the militia," the first and most important step towards the accomplishment of which certainly is to educate our young men in military science. The only plea we put in is that the general scheme of public education should be made to apply to our sea forces as well as to those of the land.

The officers and seamen of our merchant marine bear precisely the same relations to the Navy that our militia bears to the Army for the purposes of the "common defence," and, while a soldier may be drilled into shape in a comparatively short time, it is a work of years to make a sailor, to which we must add much patient training to produce a good marine artilleryman. But no distinction has in reality ever been sought to be made unfavorable to commerce or to the Navy. While agriculture is well represented in Congress, and the mechanical arts have advocates without number, and the military branch its war-tried champions, the Navy has no voice in our legislative halls. But Congress has never turned a deaf ear to a proper appeal in the cause of popular education in any branch. Let a nautical college be once fairly established, and we will guarantee the fostering care of the National Legislature, which has ever shown itself ready to help those who first help themselves.

NAVY.

#### THE "MILITAIRISCHE GESELLSCHAFT."

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Of course you know about the "Militairische Gesellschaft" of this city. It is a species of Army Literary Club, among whose members may be found the best officers of the Prussian army. It is an institution akin to the United Service of England, and something like what you in your editorial dreams would make your Army and Navy Club. Several meetings take place each month, at which essays on military subjects are read and discussed.

Captain Helmuth of the Grand Staff commenced the reading of a paper on the battle of St. Privat, Gravelotte, at the meeting of 29th December, continued it on the 9th January, and closed it at a special meeting held on the 24th January, in honor of the birthday of Frederick the Great. This meeting was held in the large hall of Armin's Hotel, and was honored by the presence of His Majesty the Emperor and King, their Royal Highnesses Princes Frederick Charles, Adalbert and Alexander, of the Field-marshal Count Wrangel, Count Moltke, von Herwarth, and many other distinguished officers.

In his prefatory remarks the essayist pointed out the fact that the spirit of Frederick the Great had continued to wield its influence with the army down to the very

present, and that much of its glory was due to the great King. The essay occupied three hours, and depicted in happy and glowing words the concluding scenes of the great combat. His Majesty the Emperor remained some time after the termination of the reading, conversing with various officers, and paid special attention to Generals von Pape and von Budritzki, commanders of the First and Second divisions of the Guard on the 18th of August, 1870, whom he thanked for their efforts on that auspicious day. Before leaving, His Majesty turned to the assembled officers, and spoke as follows:

"We have just heard the conclusion of an essay on this most important battle, a battle in which most of those present took an honorable and glorious part. You invited your troops by your example to enthusiasm and endurance, which qualities enabled us to achieve a victory in this bloody combat."

"May the younger officers learn from this that only by complete devotion to their profession in time of peace can they become sure of doing great things in time of war; and further may the officers of the army foster the spirit which enabled it to accomplish deeds, whose description excites not only exalted enthusiasm, but also deep grief for the many sacrifices offered, which I recognize with gratitude."

"To you all I again tender my sincerest acknowledgments and most heartfelt thanks." There you have a significant speech that you will not find in your daily contemporaries.

I rather imagine that the advice about the "complete devotion," will be accepted by all who have the true interests of our own army at heart. Has anything yet been done in regard to your suggestion about the Army and Navy Club's literary meetings? I remember distinctly reading your editorial to many military friends of mine, and they all agreed that the idea was capital; that if it were adopted, a respect for and gratitude to military men would, as they phrased it in their ponderous German, "make propaganda."

Why don't you keep stirring up the "House Committee," if that be the proper body?

Then, after the plan is adopted, do as they do here. Invite military men months in advance to read papers; if these are officers, let leaves be given them for the purpose, and let them be guests of the club while in the city.

But my four pages are at an end, and so I close, with the hope that you will make further attempts to transplant the "Militairische Gesellschaft" to New York.

ARMACANO.

#### ARMY POSTAGE.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: Reform seems to be the order of the day in the Post-office Department. The dead weight of the "franking privilege" has at last been removed, and bright hopes are entertained that the department will become self-sustaining. Sweeping reforms in the interest of economy, simplicity, and despatch are also, I understand, being carried out in its internal organization. May I indulge the hope that the War Department, acting in concert with that of the post-office, will take the opportunity of remodelling the machinery by which Army postage is now paid? The present system is clumsy and unjust. Clumsy, because it requires so many papers; and unjust, because it necessitates the use of private funds for public purposes. Any arrangement by which the commanding officer of a post or station could be able to draw on requisition from the nearest postmaster the monthly modicum of stamps for his command, would be a great improvement. All official documents emanating from officers of the post, and properly certified as such on the envelope, could then be stamped in the adjutant's office. The requisitions of commanding officers, with their receipt attached, would be the vouchers to the account of the post-office against the War Department for postage, and the money could be transferred in the Treasury at Washington, thus avoiding the absurdity of scattering it in dribbles all over the country by one set of officers in order to afford another set the pleasure of collecting it again. Has anybody besides myself been annoyed about his "postage account?"

FORT H—, February 18, 1873.

THE Adjutant-General of the Army reports the following deaths of commissioned officers for the week ending February 8, 1873: Captain John L. Smyth, Twenty-third Infantry, at Camp McDowell, Arizona Territory, January 22, 1873; Captain Francis Beach (retired), at New York city, February 5, 1873; First Lieutenant William J. Sartle, Fifteenth Infantry, at Santa Fe, New Mexico, January 27, 1873.

THE Austrian Navy consists at present of 72 ships, carrying 386 guns. This total comprises vessels of every description, armor-plated, wooden screw and paddle steamers, corvettes, schooners, and gunboats.

#### LETTERS IN THE NEW YORK POST-OFFICE.

THE following is a list of letters remaining in the New York Post-office on the date given. These letters are retained in the New York Office for one month from date, after which they are sent to the Dead-Letter Office, Washington:

FEBRUARY 21.

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Allen, Vanderbilt, Colonel. | Duncan, G. General.      |
| Beac, Ione W., Captain.     | Miller, C., Colonel.     |
| Beaumont, M. H., Colonel.   | Parry, Frank, Captain.   |
| Burnett, Ward B., General.  | Taylor, Nelson, General. |

FEBRUARY 25.

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Bristow, F. H., Captain. | Cutler, O., Captain. |
| Parsons, O. M., Captain. |                      |

Letters have been received at this office for the following persons: Major-General Mott, Egyptian Army—2; General E. M. Lee; General Ward; General Don Carlos Buel; Lieutenant W. C. Bartlett, Third U. S. Artillery; Colonel J. P. Curtis; Colonel J. B. Moulton; Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Sinclair; Captain John W. McClure; Captain G. R. Vernon, late U. S. Army; Captain M. J. Oranke; Lieutenant W. A. Cameron, U. S. Army; C. L. Walnwright; Dr. Harvey Brown, U. S. Army; T. Whitende Rae, U. S. Army; O. G. Bartlett; O. O. Potter, Esq.; Teacher,



## THE NATIONAL GUARD.

**WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.**—The one hundred and forty-first anniversary of the birth of Washington came in this year for more than usual observance among the people. The militia, however, as customary, in consequence of the general severity of the winter weather, the bad condition of the streets for marching purposes, and the lack of military overcoats, made no public parade; the Teutonic Second brigade, of New York, even omitting for this last reason its proposed military recognition of the natal day of the father of its adopted country. The day, however, was very generally festively observed by many of the National Guard organizations of the country, the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, and Seventy-first regiments of this city making happy demonstrations in honor of the event at their respective armories.

The Sixth, Colonel Frank Sterry, in accordance with a kindly precedent worthy of imitation, established some few years since, generously entertained the well-tried Veterans of 1812, at the regimental armory. The coldness of the day it seems did not deter the hoisting of the flag at the "Old Fort," Central Park, in the early morn, by the veteran adjutant of the old soldiers, or effect to any great extent their turn-out at the festive board of the Sixth, where for several hours unlimited hospitality was enjoyed by all concerned. One of the pleasant features of the last entertainment was the presence of the lady friends of the veterans, young and old, and this in itself added not a little to the pleasure of all. The Veterans number some fifty on the roll, about half of whom were present on this occasion. As nearly all are over 70 years of age, every year the little group, by the death of some of its members, grows smaller, the Sixth and its commander therefore deserve the greatest commendation for the kindly feelings shown these old warriors in their declining years.

The Seventh, Colonel Clark, gave the fourth of its series of promenade concerts on the evening of this day at the regimental armory, which by far was the most successful yet held. The music, under the veteran Grafulla, was selected with particular reference to the day, and of course was unusually fine. The spacious drill-room was filled with hundreds of handsome and handsomely attired ladies and their escorts, and the numbers of "lookers on in Venice," or male "wall flowers," unprecedentedly large. The promenaders in "column of twos" formed at least four circles of the room, and, in addition to this, many merry groups held forth in the company rooms below. The regiment and its friends, amid sweet musical strains and pleasant converse, forgot for the nonce the alleged unsafe condition of the armory as they moved in light but solid column over the floor, and anxiously looking forward to the day when the regiment shall squarely take possession of its proposed new quarters up town.

The Eighth regiment, Colonel Scott, as customary, celebrated the occasion by a reception given in its elegant, cosy, and costly armory. The building was filled to repletion, and the time was pleasantly spent in tripping lightly to the good music of Prof. O'Brien, partaking of the hospitalities of the regiment, and viewing the handsome apartments and their recently added internal adornments. The attendance of distinguished guests was large, and the "Washington Grays," as usual, gave their friends a "right royal time."

The Seventy-first, Colonel Vose, marked the advent of the "day we celebrate," by giving a full-dress reception at the regimental armory, which in point of numbers, general selectness, beauty of its women, *recherche* toilets, and generous hospitality, was by far one of the most successful the regiment ever gave at its pleasant armory. The rooms were handsomely decorated, an extensive array of gas jets forming the motto and designation of the regiment, comprising one of the chief features. The several companies decorated their respective rooms, and vied with each other in extending hospitality to their friends; nor were the field and staff of the regiment at all backward in this respect. Yet amid all this most properly and praiseworthy, no effort was made to introduce anything stronger than coffee, claret punch, or the non-intoxicating lemonade. The solids were plenty and good, the fluids beneficially weak and satisfactory. The music of Ebens was exquisite, and his selections most excellent, and the only prominent matter that at all detracted from this otherwise successful reception, was the "confusion worst confounded" at the hat and cloak rooms. The unfortunate position of these apartments, particularly the one allotted to the gentlemen, together with the excessive attendance and manifest poor management of those in charge, marred to no small degree one of the pleasantest entertainments the "American Guard" has given in many years. Still, such things will sometimes happen in even the best regulated regiments, particularly when a large number of impatient citizens become demoralized themselves, and spread the demoralization among the attendants.

The day was otherwise celebrated by the parade of the United Order of American Mechanics and the American Protestant Association. These civic associations, despite the condition of the street and coldness of the weather, made large turn-outs, and attracted great attention by their fine appearance, particularly the first-named organization. The slippery and uneven condition of the streets, together with the confusion of bands, rather rendered precision of step difficult, but aside from that they presented a handsome

display and a fine representation of the "bone and sinew" together with the well known intelligence of American mechanics.

**FIFTH INFANTRY.**—This regiment, Colonel Spencer, is ordered to parade, fully uniformed, armed and equipped (with overcoats and knapsacks), March 3, for the purpose of proceeding to Washington to take part in the inauguration of the President elect of the United States, General Ulysses S. Grant. Line will be formed in Hester street, opposite the regimental armory, at 3:30 p. m.

General Orders state that "commandants of companies will instruct the members of their respective commands to provide themselves with a towel and other necessary articles for their own convenience; and also to provide themselves with one day's rations, as there will be no opportunity to procure any while on the road. They will also instruct their men to use their arms and equipments with a particular care, as they will be held strictly responsible for them. They will also instruct their men to care closely for the furniture of the cars. Field and staff officers will send their horse equipments and baggage to the regimental armory on or before the first day of March, and turn them over to the quartermaster for transportation."

"Captain L. G. Theo. Bruer, of Company F, is detailed as officer of the day on the trip to Washington. Commandants of companies will detail one sergeant and two privates to act as guard of their respective companies in the cars. Said guard will immediately be posted on entering the cars, by their respective commandants, who will report their details to the officer of the day. Upon the arrival at Washington on March 4, Captain H. Kloeber, of Company B, is detailed as officer of the day, and First Lieutenant J. P. A. Kedenburg of Company A, as officer of the guard. Army regulations will be strictly enforced during the excursion. The colonel commanding is confident that the deportment and discipline of the regiment will be such as will honor the city and the State they will represent."

**THE TWENTY-SECOND'S VETERANS.**—The enterprising young corps of Veterans attached to the Twenty-second regiment held their fourth annual dinner on Monday evening in the Board of Officers' room at the regimental armory. The change of base from Delmonico's to the regimental home proved conclusively by the increased attendance that, in the opinion of the Veterans, there is after all no place like home. The armory, moreover, brings back military and social recollections of active membership in the regiment, and tends to relieve these reunions of the formality and stiffness attendant on a dinner at a hotel. Then, again, the members had the benefit and pleasure of enjoying the good catering at home by one of the family, and everything really seems to taste better, under such circumstances. Sergeant John Crawford, theoretically the *chef de cuisine* of the banquet, prepared a feast that even the famous Delmonico could scarcely excel. The viands were of the choicest kind, and exceedingly well prepared and served. The semi-military precision of the dusky waiters in serving was one of the features of the dinner that seemed to please the boys almost as much as the consumption of the eatables.

The Veteran corps of this regiment, although only a few years old, numbers some two hundred members, and at this fourth annual gathering at least sixty of them were in attendance. The dinner was arranged on two tables running lengthwise of the large room, the presiding officer, Colonel John T. Camp, and veterans of the field and staff, occupying a table facing these. The room was pleasingly decorated with battle and campaign colors, portraits of ex-officers of the regiment, and scenes in its history adorning the walls on either side. The arrangement of the tables was perfect, and the diners sat down at shortly after 7 o'clock and enjoyed the viands amid some excellent music furnished by the orchestra in attendance. The gathering was exceedingly enjoyable, and the disposition of the "good things" consumed about four hours. It was then, after the cigars had been lighted and the coffee circulated, that the wit and eloquence of the Veterans were called forth. The members being called to order, the president in a few words referred to the object of the gathering, etc., read some half dozen letters of regret, including some from prominent personages, which were written probably by the president himself, and concluding with a real communication from General Woodford. Colonel Remmey then, at the request of the president, read a letter in verse from an old friend of the corps, "Uncle John" Edward, now in the distant West. The poetical effusion was very pleasantly received, and "Uncle John" given three cheers. The toast to the "Memory of Colonel James Monroe," the regiment's lamented commander, was then drunk in silence, the members, as customary, standing. In the absence of General Woodford, the second regular toast "Union and Liberty" was omitted, and the third toast, "Twenty-second Infantry N. G. S. N. Y.," came in for an excellent response from Major McGrath. Colonel Benson then sang sweetly "Dreaming of Thee;" after which Colonel Remmey feelingly responded to the fourth toast, "Regimental reminiscences." The little colonel's response was so heartfelt that it drew forth loud applause and hearty cheers. The fifth toast, "Citizen Soldiers," was ably responded to by Captain Congdon, previous to which Captain Charlie Walker sang the "walkround," "Greenbacks," and on encore, "We Join the Army." Lieutenant-Colonel Brown, on call, sang "Let me Like a Soldier Die;" after which Colonel Benson responded to the fifth regular toast, "Vete-

ran Vernacular," in which he introduced several poetical reminiscences of the regiment; the last, the colonel stated, having been found among some castaway traps of a member of the regiment who died, it is said, before the poem was quite completed. The Veterans present were all sorry he died. Lieutenant Dunning sang in good style the "Sword of Bunker Hill;" after which Mr. J. T. Davis (second lieutenant V. C.) happily and ably responded to "Law and Justice," the sixth regular toast. Captain Bunker, of the First Minnesota, and at one time quartermaster of the regiment, then gave a facetious description of the manner in which a Hibernian instructor once instructed a squad. Captain Jardine followed in reply to the eighth toast, "The Model Veteran," as usual, excited the risibilities of the members by his quaint and dry manner of delivery. The description of the "model Veteran," at first facetious, concluded with a pleasing compliment to Colonel Remmey. Ex-Quartermaster "Billy" Rogers, on urgent call, followed with the classical musical composition "My Own Sophia." This song, and the manner in which it was rendered, greatly affected the Veterans. Several other regular toasts followed, but our space forbids reference to them. Suffice it to say, in conclusion, that the gathering was the most pleasant the corps ever held, and the large attendance gave evidence that the Twenty-second, though young, has one of the most successful Veteran organizations in the National Guard.

**TWENTY-SECOND INFANTRY.**—The right wing of this command assembled for drill on Friday, February 21. The battalion formed four commands, comprising Companies B, E, F, and I, two companies of which equalized to sixteen files, and two companies to fourteen files. Colonel Porter was in command, Major McGrath and Adjutant Boucher being also present. The exercises comprised in the main the manual, marching in line of battle and in column of fours, formation of column from line and line from column, the front into line, formation of division, the wheel by battalion, etc., etc. The manual was well done, and with a good deal of snap, the time being well marked. The other movements were generally smoothly executed, the wheeling into line from column and the formation of column from line by the flank being particularly well done. Colonel Porter should remember, however, that, in column, the about is always executed toward the side opposite the file closers. Captain Duckworth (I) and Captain Harding (B) evidently misunderstood the orders of the Colonel, and consequently went wrong with their companies; but the former officer brought his company into its proper place in handsome style at the double time. Company B, while coming back maddening well, gave practical evidence that it was not quite as well disciplined as it "used to was." The drill was a long one, and the battalion was not dismissed until after 10 o'clock.

There will be a meeting of the Twenty-second regiment Rifle Association the second Tuesday in March, it being the annual meeting for the election of officers. Target practice continues in the armory every Saturday evening under the regimental association, and the regiment expects to take the matter up very early at Clifton at the range, which will be put in good order and open two days in each week to members of the association. The regiment, through the Board of Supervisors, has re-leased its present quarters for five years, at the increased rental of \$20,000 a year. The former lease was only \$4,000.

**NINTH INFANTRY.**—A regimental court-martial is appointed to convene at the armory March 19, at 8 o'clock p. m., for the trial of delinquent non-commissioned officers and privates of the regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel James R. Hitchcock is detailed as president. The regiment is ordered to drill by wing, in full fatigue uniform, white cross and body belts, at the armory, as follows: Right wing, Companies G, F, D, B, and C, March 11 and 25; left wing, Companies I, H, K, E, and A, March 13 and 27. Line will be formed at 8 p. m.

**SEVENTY-FIRST INFANTRY.**—This regiment paraded on Thursday, the 20th, at the State Arsenal, for drill, review, and inspection. The strength was ten commands of twelve files, with band and drum corps, Colonel Vose in command. About seven and a half of the companies were in line on the south side of the room, a part of the eighth company, with the ninth and tenth, extending across the west and some distance along the north side. The arsenal hardly holds more than one hundred files in its longer extent, and eight companies of twelve files are the utmost which can properly manoeuvre in it. We should prefer to see the companies which cannot stand in line placed in column in front or rear of the flanks, as being a more military formation, and analogous to the breaking of fours to the rear. Colonel Vose commanded in his usual confident and able manner. He very properly gave the commands for the changes of arms on the march, instead of the course we often see pursued of leaving this to the captains, which is excusable on street parades with music, and only then. The movements which preceded the review were simple, but smoothly performed. One, which was very effective and handsomely performed, is not to be found in Upton's (nor Morris's) Tactics. We did not hear the command, but would venture to christen it, "To continue the march, on the left, column at full distance by division," and consisted in the divisions successively wheeling from column of fours into division front, and marching down the breadth of the room. The review was received by the Inspector-General. The regiment did not fix bayonets for the review. The passage in review was, as far as we could see



for the dense crowd, very good; but the wheeling into line from column was attended, on account of the limited room, with an excessive amount of "side step" and dressing. Not one man in ten of the front rank turned his head and eyes to the right at "rear open order, march." Have an eye to this, captains, and while you are about it search the Tactics for the command "right backward march," which some of you used, and for which we will pay a liberal reward. The Colonel brought his command to an extra "present" after the reviewing officer had passed along the line, which was too polite by a third. The colors did not droop at the last salute, but they did so as the reviewing officer passed along the line, cutting him off from the left wing, and almost concealing him. The regiment then broke into column, and was inspected, presenting a fine appearance.

**ARMORIES.**—At last the old and substantial White street city arsenal, used for drilling purposes by the different batteries of the First division, is to be looked after and repaired. Its condition has long been a disgrace to the city. The Supervisors have re-leased the armory of the Twenty-second at \$20,000 per year for five years. This is only five times more than paid before; but, in comparison with the other armories of the city, it is the cheapest, by reason of its adaptation to the purposes of the military. The work on the "Centre Market" armory, which was originally to cost only thirty-five or forty thousand dollars, has already cost over fifty thousand, according to the bills rendered. The Supervisors therefore, seeing that by this "job work" the reconstruction was likely to cost \$100,000 before completed, have resolved to refer the matter to the Committee on Armories and Drill Rooms, with a view of putting a stop to the "job" and to the work. At the meeting of the Supervisors on Monday one of the members called the attention of the Committee to the Thirteenth street armory, used as a riding school, where bills amounting to \$12,000 for repairs were already sent in, which, in his opinion, was a sum more than sufficient to build the armory from the foundation to the roof. The matter was referred to the Committee on Armories and Drill Rooms. The special committee appointed pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of New York on the 6th day of January, 1873, "to investigate any and all charges that have been made or may be made in regard to the lease of Nilsson Hall, and all other leases of buildings intended for or used as armories and drill rooms, with power," etc., respectfully reported as to the lease of the building situate on the easterly side of Broadway, between Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth streets. The building was leased in pursuance of a resolution of the Board of Supervisors, passed September 19, 1872, the lease to commence on the 18th day of October, 1872, at the annual rental of \$24,000 per year and the taxes, bringing the rent up to about twenty-eight thousand per year. Those premises, the Committee thought, were too expensive for the use of the National Guard, but, after a full investigation, were convinced that there was no fraud, and recommended that the county pay the rent. This armory, comparatively speaking, is not near as extortionate in rental as many of the armories of the city, for it can accommodate, and is now being fitted up for the use of three organizations, namely, the Twelfth Infantry, First (battalion) Cavalry, and First Troop Washington Grays. We trust, however, that ere long the Supervisors will see the folly of leasing buildings of the above character, as scarcely any have the proper space for drilling. In fact, a space for battalion drill should properly have for its shorter dimension the full front of the command, and for its longer twice the same. We hope some time to see brigade arsenals on this plan, enabling four strong regiments to have each a battalion drill every week. Each should have its regimental armory in the vicinity, with two commodious company or squad drill rooms. During the time devoted to company drill (which should be uniform, say September to February) the companies should use the brigade arsenal in turn for a company drill, which would elevate the character of that exercise above the usual round-and-round-the-room routine, and give an opportunity for skirmish drill. This plan, if the infantry of the division were reduced to two brigades of four strong regiments each, would be cheaper than at present.

**FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVISION.**—Major Roland M. Hall, inspector of this brigade, in accordance with instructions from brigade headquarters, has rendered a report in brief of the general condition of the books and papers of the organization of the brigade, from which we quote as follows:

Speaking generally, the headquarter books of the Twelfth, Twenty-second, and Seventy-first regiments are in almost if not quite the highest possible state of order and neatness. Those of the Seventy-first regiment appear to me to be all and more than all that the regulations can require; while those of the Twelfth and Twenty-second regiments—the latter in particular—comprise blanks which have been adopted by those regiments for themselves, and which are stated by the adjutants to be of great service to them and to the commanding officers. The company books and papers in the Twenty-second and Seventy-first regiments are all, I believe, in good order and properly kept, and such as are required by the regulations. The same may be said of the Twelfth regiment in almost all instances, and excepting perhaps one only, where the company happens for a considerable time to have wanted a commanding officer of the rank of captain. The company books in the Sixty-ninth regiment exhibit generally a regard for the spirit of discipline, and a neatness, the latter of which is the more commendable as some of the officers are probably less accustomed to the use of the pen than those of some other regiments. The headquarter books of that regiment are less perfect than I could wish, but still in tolerable condition. On the other hand, little praise can be awarded to the headquarter books of the

Seventy-ninth regiment, in which, however, improvement is promised by the present acting adjutant, and still less to those of the First Cavalry which can hardly be represented as sufficient to meet the requirements of necessity, let alone those of the regulations. The company books of both the Seventy-ninth regiment and the First Cavalry are also wanting in some instances and ill kept in others. Some of the companies, however, in both regiments, are provided with the proper books, which are reasonably well kept.

**VARIOUS ITEMS.**—Inspector-General Morris will review and inspect the several organizations of the First brigade, with the exception of the Twelfth and Seventy-first already inspected, between the 21st and 30th of April. The Second brigade will go through the same ordeal between the 1st and 15th of March, and the Third brigade between the 15th and 31st of same month. The organization of the Second division will be reviewed and inspected by the same officer between the 1st and 20th of April. A correspondent wants to know "why Major-General Woodward, of the Second division N. G. S. N. Y., in G. O. No. 8, which has just been promulgated, designates assistant surgeons as having the rank of first lieutenant, while surgeons rank as major? I know assistant surgeons who hold commissions from the Commander-in-Chief, with the rank of captain." It will not do, General, to reduce, in print even, the rank of such valuable staff officers. Who made the blunder, the chief of staff, clerk, or printer? This matter demands immediate attention; in fact, a special order might be issued correcting the blunder. What can be more annoying to an officer than having his rank reduced, in print?.....The "Washington Light Guard," Company B, Twelfth Infantry, celebrated the 22d of February on the 24th by a pleasant reception, given at the regimental armory. Captain "Charlie" Burns, the genial commandant, was in his best humor, and entertained his numerous guests in royal style. Colonel Ward was in attendance, also Adjutant Murphy, Captain Brady, and hosts of the good fellows. The ball was decidedly one of the most successful the company ever gave, and the dance did not terminate until five o'clock in the morning. ....Colonel Kilburn Knox, of New York city, recently appointed commissary-general and chief of ordnance on Governor Dix's staff was confirmed by the State Senate on Wednesday. "That settles it." He was once before confirmed, as announced in the JOURNAL, but the list of nominations in which his name was included was reconsidered by the Senate to give farther opportunity for considering one of the names included in it. ....The Fifth Infantry will receive the Second Connecticut on its arrival in New York, en route to Washington to attend the inauguration, and, after escorting it to the Jersey depot, will follow it in the next special train. The wing drills of the regiment under Colonel "Charlie" have been very satisfactory. Colonel Spencer can rattle off the commands in good style, and seems to be gradually grasping the military. The wing on Tuesday, comprising five companies, was divided so as to form a battalion of eight commands of twelve files. The drill was very fair, and the men seemed to be somewhat "on their mettle," and we trust a similar feeling will pervade the ranks at Washington next week. ....The "Webster Guard," Company E, Twelfth, Captain Sprague, have issued handsome invitations for their exhibition drill at the arsenal March 5. During the evening the drum corps of the Twelfth Infantry, under Drum-Major Brown, will give an exhibition of their "percussory skill." ....The National Guard Riding Club of Williamsburgh was considerably weakened lately, not by the "epidemic epidemic," but by the withdrawal of a number of members; however, the club does not struggle for an existence, as it is composed of about eighteen gentlemen, mostly all active members of the National Guard. The resignations of Adjutants Karcher and Pape, as secretary and treasurer, were accepted, and Colonel Roehr and Captain Bossert were elected to fill the positions respectively. When the thermometer runs up to 80 the members will go 2:40 on the road. G'lang. ....The Forty-seventh will drill by wing during the month of March, but as the orders have not come to hand we are unable to give the correct dates. ....The armory projects of the Seventh and Thirteenth at Albany, we fear, will be forgotten if not lost in the great struggle over the new municipal charter for New York city. ....The Fifteenth battalion Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Meyenborg, will hold a promenade concert and dress parade at the State Arsenal, Brooklyn, March 18. ....The Twenty-third give a concert at Burnham's, Brooklyn, this (Saturday) evening.

**MARYLAND.**—Fifth Infantry.—The following is an interesting description of the new headquarters of the Fifth regiment:

The armory faces south on a new street laid out between Howard and Garden streets. The whole building is 100 feet in width and 177 feet in depth. The main entrance is on the new street and in the centre of the front building. Entering through the sliding doors, two small rooms, one on either side, present themselves; one is used by the janitors, the other by the armorer, who has here his lathe, workbench, and tools. Entering from the landing, on a level with these two small rooms, through the light doors placed to exclude the wind, the visitor ascends about twelve steps to the landing immediately facing and on a level with the main hall and first floor of the front building. The landing is about twelve feet in depth to the double-folding doors leading into the main hall or drill-room. This hall is 100 by 140 feet in size, having a gallery about six feet in width running around the whole room, supported on brackets, and, at either end, where it is widened, also hang to the roof by iron rods. There is not a pillar or obstruction of any kind in the room. The ceiling is semi-circular in form, supported by a bridge truss, and rises in the centre to a height of forty-two feet. This ceiling is pierced by three ventilators

and between the trusses is plastered. The room is lighted by sixteen large circular-headed windows, in the sides and north end, and by a large rose window, also in the north end, over the gallery. The wood work is stained in imitation of oak and walnut. The hall is furnished with ten large black-walnut musket racks, placed between the pilasters flanking the windows. These racks contain circular revolving musket stands, and are protected from the dust by plate glass, also revolving. Each rack will contain forty-eight muskets. At night the hall is lighted by ten patent reflectors, each with twenty burners, and any one or all can be lighted instantaneously by means of electricity. Two of these reflectors afford sufficient light to drill by. There are also gas brackets in either end of the hall over the gallery. Returning to the front building, on the right from the landing, is the reading room, thirty-two by forty-two feet. Two large doors open from this room to the main hall, and two into the hallway or landing on the stairway. This room is furnished with oak tables, chairs, etc., where are to be had also all the leading domestic and foreign papers, magazines, and reviews. A piano is also among the attractions. This room is much resorted to by the members, and is a very popular feature of the building. It is lighted by a twelve-light green bronze and gilt chandelier, with bracket to match, the latter supplied with argand burners and porcelain shades. On the opposite side of the hall is a room similar in size, etc., which is furnished with two of Taylor's best billiard tables, and the popularity of this room is so assured that the authorities of the regiment contemplate adding two more tables shortly. Immediately over the main entrance is a room twelve by seventeen feet, which has been appropriated to the adjutant, where all the regimental books, blanks, etc., are kept. This room is furnished in black walnut, and has all things necessary for the transaction of his duties. On either side of the adjutant's office and at the end of the hall are two permanent washstands. Ascending from this floor one flight, the visitor reaches a landing on the level with the gallery floor of the main hall. On the right, ascending about four steps, is the executive committee room and the headquarters, separated by sliding doors. These two rooms are covered by a very handsome Brussels carpet, and are furnished in black walnut, the executive committee room having a desk for the president on a raised platform, with a table on either side for the adjutant and military secretary. Immediately over the billiard room, the two rooms are appropriated to Companies D and K to the front, and B and C to the rear. Ascending to the floor above, the building is divided as on the floor just described, except that the room in front, and over the adjutant's office, runs over the hallway, and is in size 30 by 15 feet. On the opposite or western side of the building the first room is assigned to Companies A and I, and the rear room to the quartermaster. The room in the front centre of the building is used for the band and drum corps, and on occasions of entertainments will be devoted to the uses of a kitchen, it being supplied with two cooking stoves and a dumb waiter, which passes to the lower floor into the adjutant's room, whence articles may be taken to the reading and billiard rooms, temporarily arranged as banquet rooms. Ascending from the band room, by a rather steep staircase, the regimental storerooms are reached, covering the whole of the front building immediately under the roof. Thence, by two flights, the visitor reaches the observatory, which is on a level with the outlook on the Washington monument, and whence the finest view can be had of the city of Baltimore and environs.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

**OLD SUBSCRIBER.**—The method of equalizing the battalion at West Point is as follows: The companies, having formed on the camp parades, are closed on the centre. The adjutant then commands, Officers and guides fall out. He then commences on the right and counts to the left of the battalion the number of privates in the front rank. This number he divides by eight, the number of companies, and, commencing on the left, marks the division of companies, causing each to side step to the left; a guide places himself in the interval between the companies. The division marked, the adjutant commands, Officers and guides to the front and centre—MARCH. The officers form in the order of seniority from right to left; the guides similarly in their rear. The adjutant then tells them off, as captain, guide, such company, and commands, Officers and guides about faced to your posts—MARCH. They repair to the designated company, and each captain causes his company to count fours.

**J. H. H., Memphis, Tenn.**—Brevet Lieutenant-General Winfield Scott died on May 29, 1866, at West Point, N. Y.

**THIRTEENTH INFANTRY, Fort Fred Steele.**—There is no present probability of any present change of the infantry regiments, as the appropriation for the present fiscal year is quite exhausted.

**ACHILLES.**—A soldier serving with his regiment can apply to the Adjutant-General for transfer to the Signal Service. Should his application be approved by his immediate officers and by his colonel, the soldier would be likely, in case of a vacancy, to receive the appointment of observer sergeant, provided he could pass the required examination, and have a good character. A few artillery soldiers are detailed for a year's instruction at the Artillery School, and attached for the time to the batteries of their respective regiments there stationed. The detail is made on their own applications properly approved.

**MEN.**—As the first sergeant who re-enlisted was upon such re-enlistment each up and reported only as a private, and his place of first sergeant filled, the company commander could not, upon the occurrence of a vacancy among the other authorized number of sergeants, appoint the private, and make him the ranking duty sergeant. Every non-commissioned officer in a regiment is furnished with a warrant of his rank signed by the colonel and countersigned by the adjutant. By paragraph 80 of the U. S. Army Regulations the captain is permitted to select the first or orderly sergeant from the sergeants, and such sergeant therefore takes rank and precedence over the other sergeants. As to the remainder, they take command as between themselves and other non-commissioned officers, when required to act together, according to the dates of their respective warrants, unless their duties are performed under the immediate direction of superior authority.

**INQUIRER.**—Appointments in the Army from civil life are made by the President with consent of the Senate, after the applicant has passed the required examination. The Secretary of War does not make any appointment in the President's name without his prior sanction. The General Order of 1854 on the subject of promotion required that enlisted men promoted should be unmarried; and this order has not been revoked. The reason is possibly found in the fact that recruits, by regulation, must be single men when enlisted. It does not apply to appointments from civil life.

**OFFICER, BROOKLYN REGIMENT.**—It is the duty of an inspecting officer at a stated inspection, under arms, to inspect an officer's sword. In the General Regulations for the Regular Army, paragraph 310, he is required to inspect the dress and general appearance of the field and commissioned staff under arms, and to make a minute inspection of the several ranks, in succession, commencing in front. On duty, under arms, line officers have their swords drawn, and at inspections form a rank by themselves in front of their respective companies.

**EIGHTH INFANTRY.**—General Orders No. 14, from the War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, Washington, January 31, 1873, provides that hereafter there will be but five sergeants allowed for companies of infantry, and reductions will be made by casualties.



## THE CLOSING DAYS ABOUT RICHMOND.

BY AN OFFICER OF THE CORPS.

## VIII. THE CAVALRY CORPS IN THE DEATH THROE OF THE REBELLION.

(Conclusion.)

[Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1873, by W. C. & F. P. Church, in the office of the Librarian of Congress, Washington, D. C.]

NOT the least interesting feature of this battle was the completeness of the collapse of the rebel corps which fought it. From commanding general to the private soldier the sensation appeared to be the same. "We are lost and must make the best of it with our enemies." Dozens of men would surrender to a single "Yankee." When once the Union arms seemed entirely successful among the scattered rebels, the hope of escaping the present dangers of battle and of partaking of rations with the victors, rose paramount to that of military duty and honor. There could now be no *esprit de corps*, for the corps itself was no more. It was the same old organization—although altered by the incessant changes of active campaigns—with which Jackson earlier in the war swept through the valleys of Virginia, or hurled in heavy masses against the sturdy, veteran Army of the Potomac. Its history is one of valor, hardship, suffering, victory, tenacity, and final defeat. Its military discipline was most vigorous and exemplary, its confidence and self-reliance a pride and boast among its members, its bravery never questioned, its fortitude, endurance, and heroism worthy of the nation to which its men belonged, and against whose justice, beneficence and righteous power they most wickedly rebelled.

Illustrating the spirit prevailing at the close of this battle, and as one of many similar incidents doubtless never to be recorded, is the experience of an officer of General Crook's staff who had joined in the grand final charge when his usually quiet general at the last moment enthusiastically ordered every one about him, officer or orderly, to join in the charge whenever he pleased. "Put everything in; now everybody go in," is an inspiring command seldom heard from the professional soldier, but always effective, never misunderstood. Joining then, the nearest squadron, this subordinate rode among the disordered foe who, throwing down their arms, hastened back for safety into the Union lines. Never stopping, however, each trooper rode hurriedly on to overtake and capture still more of the rebel fugitives. Our young officer, not a little enthusiastic, pushed on supposing he was followed by others, when suddenly as his horse was jumping a ditch he encountered a well formed regiment of the enemy, who had either rallied or arrived from a different position of the field and taken a favorable position to embarrass pursuit. Fortunately, just as his horse missed his footing and with his rider fell into the ditch. The horse regained himself, but the regiment just then opening a heavy musketry fire, drove him back with all our pursuing soldiers. The young aid, however, was a veteran, and unharmed lay as if dead within a few feet of the enemy's line, while the paper and dust from their cartridges flew over and about him. Soon the fire ceased and the regiment moved away. The captain cautiously looking up perceived that he had ventured too far. Our men had all retired from that locality and a large group of rebels were retreating over the same path he had ridden. Quick as thought the little fellow sprang up and demanded their surrender, saying that they might as well surrender now to him as go any further, our cavalry was only beyond the hills and on the same road over which they were marching, but surrender they must. So alone and unaided this Yankee marched twenty-five or thirty soldiers and their officers to a place of comparative safety. Raising then a white handkerchief from a commanding hill, he continued gathering the stragglers of the enemy, until when accidentally found by a brother officer, he was the sole custodian, commander and guard of more than fifty rebel soldiers with ten or a dozen of their officers; and he marched them in triumph to the bivouac of his general. So runs the excitement, the ever-varying chances of war!

Not the least among the noticeable features of this battle is the amusing behavior of mules under fire. In some of the brigades there were a large number of the soldiers mounted on these interesting animals who had been picked up about the country to supply the places of worn-out horses. Sometimes half of a regiment would be so mounted, and as they stood in the line awaiting the charge there was little in the demure countenances of these long-eared creatures to remind one of the "fiery steed" or the "mottled charger" which the license of the pen habituates to the battle-field. When a charge is sounded these undisciplined mules do not jump with sympathetic inspiration at the first touch of the spur. With characteristic obstinacy they start slowly, and their speed is only increased with considerable difficulty and attentive chastisement. When once fairly under way, however, and dashing headlong forward in their jumping, kicking, native style, their riders need give them no further attention; the crowd rushes on, and each individual mule knows no master. So when a number of them were thus directed toward the enemy's line one of two things was inevitable: either, regardless of any obstacle, they would clear the slight breastworks, unless shot, disappear in the rebel rear, or else, stopping suddenly, plant themselves in its front, with pricked-up ears, head most reverently lowered, and extended legs, assume a firm, defiant, and immovable attitude, which no other beast has ever attempted. In either of these cases their riders' chances of escape from capture or death are very indifferent, and none appreciate this fact better than the veterans. Therefore, when the mules had reached that pitch of obstinate excitement which knew no control, there was something indescribably laughable in the unique attempts of their riders to dismount under difficulties. While some risked their fate by throwing themselves precipitately from the saddle, the animal going at full speed, others, more dexterous, quickly slipped along his back and down via his tail to the ground. When then one charge was repulsed, and a large number of these mules was seen returning with

empty saddles, it was believed our loss must have been exceedingly severe. But shortly afterwards, covered with dust and dirt, and to the serious amusement of their comrades, the mule troopers straggled back from their perilous proximity to rebels. Mingled with the laughter of their more fortunate associates, long, loud, deep, and not a little profane were their wild execrations against "mule cavalry."

Among the results of this day's victory are the capture of six rebel generals—Ewell, Kershaw, Button, Corse, De Barre, and Custis Lee—fourteen guns, many caissons, wagons, battle flags, and several thousand prisoners. Of the latter it is impossible to learn the exact number; it will never be known. Commanding officers themselves never received reports of the number taken only on that day, and their official estimates are only approximate. Certain it is, however, that several thousand were assembled that evening in the cavalry bivouac, while many more, of course, were with other commands. In this interesting campaign the operations of one day followed so closely and were so united during the night to those of the next that it is difficult to say exactly what part of its grand movements and successes were accomplished in any one particular day. The complete results appear only at its conclusion.

"If the thing is pressed, I think Lee will surrender," says Sheridan in his official despatch to Grant at the close of the day. The next day Grant wrote first to Lee on the subject.

## FOREIGN ITEMS.

MR. LAING, as reported by the London Times, has urged the acceptance by Her Majesty's government of the three rules established by the Treaty of Washington as a part of the general law of nations.

THE deliberations on the system of compulsory universal military service in the Russian Army, to attend which Field-Marshal Berg, lieutenant-general of Poland, and Field-Marshal Baratinski have been summoned, will be held in the military council, and in accordance with the usual legal forms. A special council, under the presidency of the Emperor, will consider the general question of army reorganization.

A TELEGRAM from Berlin February 24 states on official authority that negotiations for expediting the evacuation of French territory have not even been commenced. By March three and a half milliards of the war indemnity will have been received from France, and by July the payment of the fourth milliard will have been completed. Then negotiations will be in order touching the early payment of the fifth milliard, on which the further withdrawal of troops will depend. The impression is that the Germans, looking to the possibility of President Thiers's overthrow at any moment, will not evacuate Belfort until the entire indemnity is paid.

RIGHT HON. MR. CARDWELL, the British Secretary of State for the War Department, presented the army estimates for the years 1873-74 to Parliament recently, and proceeded to explain them in detail. The total expenditure is £14,416,000, which, despite the prices of coal, provisions, clothing, and other supplies, is the lowest since the Crimean war. The regular army at home and abroad numbers 125,000 men, of whom 63,000 constitute the home force. Besides these, the estimates provide for 139,000 militia, 13,000 yeomanry, 161,000 volunteers, 10,000 of the First Reserves, and 20,000 of the Second Reserves. The recruiting service is in a satisfactory state of efficiency. The total number of desertions from the regular forces, during the past year, was 4,000. The Secretary concluded by recommending legislation to prevent the pay of privates ever becoming less than a shilling per day.

It appears that the French Committee for the reorganization of the army has decided in favor of twelve regional *corps d'armée* and three *corps d'armée mobiles*, two of which will be quartered in or around Paris, and the third at Lyons, which also requires special looking after. There will be another *corps d'armée* for Algeria, and a seventeenth corps of disembarkation composed of marines. It seems that, after all, the *chasseurs-à-pied* are to be retained, as well as the Algerian *tirailleurs* and the Foreign Legion. The cavalry, artillery, etc., will be attached, of course, to the various *corps d'armée* above mentioned. As far as guns are concerned, three committees—at Bourges, Calais, and Tarbes—are making independent trials, in the hope of finding a good breech-loader between the four and eight field guns now in use. It should be added, however, that muzzle-loaders have not been excluded from the experiments, so the committees will have to decide on the system of loading, metal, calibre, etc.

THE Versailles correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph states that the preparations for Bazaine's trial seem at last to be drawing to a close, nine months having elapsed since he gave himself up a prisoner, since which time he has been closely guarded by five sentries by day and twelve by night. One thousand one hundred and forty witnesses have been heard during this process of preparing the case; 660 have been found to be of no use, so that when the trial takes place 480 witnesses will have to be heard for the prosecution. For the defence the Marshal has called upon fifteen or sixteen officers who were witnesses of all he did at Metz, and he will rely greatly upon the written documents, which he considers to justify the line of conduct he pursued. By the army Bazaine is looked upon as "le bouc émissaire," the scapegoat for the sins of mismanagement and the downfall of national vanity during the late campaign. But by the non-military class, and by the immense number of those who do not reason, he is regarded as a traitor who took money from the Prussians; who pretended to defend Metz when he really did nothing of the kind; who wilfully threw away the lives of his men; who was on the best terms with Prince Frederick Charles and all the chiefs of his German army; and who used positively to leave Metz and go to the German outposts, where *petit soupers à la régime* were held frequently, and where the grand plot by which Metz was to be delivered up to the Red Prince was concocted.

THE *Spenerische Zeitung* gives a very complete report of a lecture recently delivered before the Scientific Association of Berlin by Major Weinberger, of the general staff, on the siege of Strasbourg. The chief interest for those who have already a general knowledge of the circumstances lies naturally in the remarks made on the fruitless bombardment with which the formal siege was preluded. This, it will be remembered, was begun on the 23d of August and continued three days, being then suddenly abandoned in favor of regular approaches. Effectual bombardments, like those with which Kameke took Thionville, Metziers, and other minor fortresses, carry their own justification in the results; but it is difficult, even in German eyes, to excuse one which was so wholly ineffectual and so certainly irritating as that of Strasbourg. The responsibility has accordingly been sometimes thrown upon the artillery officers of the force, anxious to prove the value of their new projectiles; sometimes on the not very placable temper of the commander, General Werder, angered at the rejection of his summons. According to Major Weinberger, the attempt to reduce the city by the terrors of bursting shells and burning houses was a real one, and was only discontinued after the three days' trial on finding that the obstinacy of the garrison and inhabitants was not thus to be overcome. This he states very expressly. But, unfortunately, the statement leaves the original question very much where it was before. For although in the time mentioned but a fraction of the buildings within the enceinte were destroyed, quite enough damage was done to show that it was within the power of the thirteen batteries thrown up to reach and overthrow every part of the city, successively, supposing only that the German ammunition held out. The conduct of the troops and inhabitants, judged even from the very favorable view given of them in General Ulrich's own work, was by no means of such a high character as to lead to the belief that their endurance in this matter would have gone beyond very moderate limits, or that they ever had the intention of allowing themselves to be literally buried under the last ruins of the city. Hence we are brought back to the conclusion, long since arrived at by cities, which Major Weinberger's lectures cannot affect—that one or two serious faults is chargeable on General Werder and his staff. Either they began a bombardment with so inadequate a supply of ammunition as to make it a confessed failure; or they bombarded just enough of the city to cause permanent irritation for the future in the hearts of the inhabitants, and, having done this, held their hands. How serious the irritation produced by the abortive attempt is, every visitor to Strasbourg for the last eighteen months should be aware.

THE Marshall House at Alexandria, Va., where Colonel Ellsworth was killed, at the commencement of the late war, was burned on Monday night. The fire was the work of an incendiary.

PRESIDENT GRANT has met with quite a serious loss in the destruction by fire of his country residence near St. Louis. This building was situated on his farm on the Gravois road, and was known as "Wish-ton-wish." The loss is about \$5,500, on which there was no insurance. The farm upon which this building stood comprises about 800 acres, of which one-third is in a high state of cultivation. There is, however, another fine residence on the estate, in the plantation style of dwelling, of wood, and is estimated to be worth \$6,000. It is known as "Whitehaven," and in 1823 was greatly improved by Mr. Frederick Dent, the President's father-in-law. Near this building, which stands about a quarter of a mile from the burnt residence, are a barn and stables, which were erected three years ago, at a cost of \$3,000, and where are housed the President's fine horse stock, White Clouds, Bashaw, Pilat Temples, and Gold Dust.

MRS. SARAH HOWE, of Greenpoint, L. I., has had a Grover & Baker Sewing Machine in almost constant use for sixteen years, during all of which time it has been in perfect working order, and never required the outlay of one cent for repairs.

GLITSCH'S IMPERIAL RUSSIAN MUSTARD possesses a flavor and piquancy peculiar to itself, and a strength more than six times greater than any other mustard in the market. The mustard is entirely pure and exceedingly healthy. Such men as Professor Silliman of Yale College, Bishop De Schweinitz of the Moravian church, President Coppee of Lehigh University, and thousands of others, use it daily. See advertisement in another column.

## BIRTH.

GIRARD.—On the 16th of February, to Annie E. wife of Dr. A. C. Girard, U. S. Army, a son.

## MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages should be paid for at the rate of 50 cents each.]

BORTHWICK—REID.—February 14, 1873, [by the Rev. Dr. Ho,] J. B. BORTHWICK, U. S. N., to Miss JESSIE REID, of Erie, Penn. Warren, Pa., papers please copy.

OVERTON—WATKINS.—At Detroit, Mich., February 20, at the residence of the bride's aunt, by the Rev. Dr. Pitkin, Lieutenant GILBERT E. OVERTON, U. S. Army, to Miss JENNIE D. WATKINS (No cards.)

## DIED.

WEBSTER.—Killed by an accident on the Louisville, Nashville and Great Southern railroad, near Russellville, Ky., on February 4, 1873, CHARLOTTE LUCASIA and CHARLOTTE BELDER, wife and only child of Lieutenant George O. Webster, Adjutant Fourth Infantry, U. S. A.

GIRARD.—On the 15th of February, at Laurel Point Plantation, near Grahamville, S. C., MARY FRANCES ALONZA, daughter of Annie R. and Dr. Alfred C. Girard, U. S. Army, aged 3 years 9 months and 3 days.